



Philosophy Major—Senior Thesis Option

The Philosophy Department offers a thesis option for our majors. The thesis is not intended simply to be a long paper, but rather a developed piece of supervised philosophical research. Its length must be at least 10,000 words (~ 40 pages double-spaced), and its content substantially different from any papers the student has written for other courses. (That is, the student may first work on the topic in a class paper, but the thesis must involve a much richer exploration and development of this topic.)

A student writing a thesis will enroll in the 4-credit course “PHIL 4990 Senior Thesis: Philosophy,” which will count as one of the ten courses needed for the major, as one of the three free electives.

(This option does not replace the thesis written by Majors in the Honors program.)

The general steps for setting up and completing the thesis are as follows:

- 1) In the spring semester of the junior year, with a topic area in mind, the student asks a Philosophy faculty member to serve as the thesis mentor.
- 2) The student then gets the approval of the Associate Chair (at Rose Hill or Lincoln Center) to register for the course PHIL-4990 for the fall semester.
- 3) It is expected that the student will do preliminary research for the thesis over the summer.
- 4) The student will continue to research and write the thesis during the fall semester. The student and mentor will agree on some periodic meetings during the fall semester.
- 5) When completed, the thesis will be read by the mentor and another member of the Philosophy faculty.
- 6) The student will offer an oral defense for the thesis by the end of the fall semester. The date for the defense must be determined a month in advance, and the thesis submitted to the readers two weeks in advance of the oral defense date.
- 7) The two Faculty readers will jointly determine the thesis grade, based on the quality of the written work and the oral defense.

Prior to registering for the fall semester of senior year, Rose Hill students should contact the RH Assoc.

Chair, Dr. Daryl Tress (tress@fordham.edu); Lincoln Center students should contact the LC Assoc. Chair,

Fr. Christopher Cullen, S.J. (ccullen@fordham.edu)