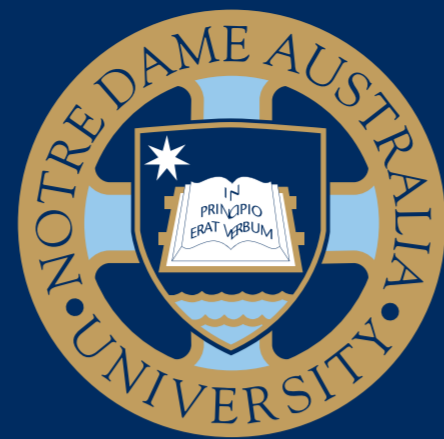


HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

Contemporary



- › Undergraduate and postgraduate
- › In-person or online
- › Open to students from all universities
- › Available for audit

Presented by the **School of Philosophy & Theology** and the **Centre for the History of Philosophy** at the University of Notre Dame Australia

THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

A Four-Course Journey

Chart the full sweep of Western philosophy from antiquity to today



Follow the history of Western philosophical inquiry, from the Pre-Socratics to the 21st century, in this integrated four-course sequence covering the four major periods of Western philosophy: **ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary**.

These courses examine how different thinkers and traditions have wrestled with enduring questions about knowledge, reality, the divine, the good life and the human condition.

Whether you're preparing for advanced study, seeking a solid foundation in philosophy, or simply curious about the ideas that shape our world, these courses offer comprehensive intellectual and historical grounding.

Designed for both **undergraduate and postgraduate students**, the courses combine close readings of primary sources with lively discussion and real-world applications.

Delivered in-person and online, and supported by the Centre for the History of Philosophy's seminars, masterclasses and research events, the Notre Dame History of Philosophy sequence offers a rare chance to explore the full breadth of Western philosophical traditions.

Together, these four courses comprise a **Graduate Certificate in the History of Philosophy** and can serve as a pathway into further Notre Dame degrees, such as the Master of Liberal Arts.



PHIL2100 / PHIL6100

Ancient Philosophy

Greece and Rome

Follow the development of classical philosophy from the Pre-Socratics through Socrates, Plato and Aristotle then into the Hellenistic schools and Neo-Platonism, culminating in Augustine. The course highlights the enduring influence of Plato and Aristotle on Greek and Roman thought while situating later voices within that legacy.

Key themes:

Defining philosophy • Nature, change, teleology • The good life • Soul, city, cosmos • Hellenistic schools



PHIL2110 / PHIL6110

Medieval Philosophy

5th – 15th century

Trace philosophy's evolution from Augustine to the Renaissance, examining its crucial role in European intellectual traditions through the Middle Ages. Engage with figures like Thomas Aquinas, Avicenna and Maimonides who integrated Greek thought with Abrahamic ideas. Study the interplay of religion and rationality and the reshaping of metaphysics, logic, ethics and politics through translation movements and medieval institutions.

Key themes:

Faith & reason • Platonism & Aristotelianism • Creation, being, causality • Jewish & Islamic thinkers • Scholasticism



PHIL2130 / PHIL6130

Modern Philosophy

Renaissance to Romanticism

Analyse the revolutionary transition from medieval worldviews to modernity. Through thinkers such as Bacon, Descartes, Hume and Kant, investigate the rise of natural science, the clash between rationalism and empiricism, and revolutionary ideas that transformed Western views of metaphysics, knowledge, morality and religion—ideas that still shape our society today.

Key themes:

The Scientific Revolution • Rationalism & empiricism • Modern epistemology & scepticism • Evolution of moral theory



PHIL2140 / PHIL6140

Contemporary Philosophy

20th & 21st century

Examine the major movements that have shaped philosophy since 1900. Through figures like Frege, Wittgenstein, Heidegger and Derrida, this course introduces analytic and continental approaches to language, mind, existence and culture, and recent revivals that reconnect contemporary debates with classical sources.

Key themes:

Analytic & continental philosophy • Phenomenology • Language and analysis • Existentialism • Revival of metaphysics



FIND OUT MORE
notredame.edu.au/hop

Ready to explore 2,500 years of world-shaping ideas?
Enrol today and join Notre Dame's vibrant community of philosophical learners, thinkers and friends.

FIND OUT MORE
notredame.edu.au/hop
Enquiries: chop@nd.edu.au

