

Advising Letter

Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Classical Studies

March 1, 2013

Dear Philosophy Majors,

Hope all is well with all of you! As you know, spring registration – registration for the fall term – commences Tuesday April 2 and ends Friday April 12. The purpose of this letter is just to underline a couple of important things as you are finalizing your course selection.

1. This is the ideal time to make an appointment to see your faculty advisor in philosophy. Please do that at your earliest convenience! The meeting with your advisor should take place before your own advising window opens and preferably before April 2.

Email is a good way to contact your advisor for that purpose. Our email addresses are listed here: <http://philos.pages.tcnj.edu/faculty/>. Or you can just drop by during our office hours.

If you are unsure who your advisor is, you can check your PAWS account. Or you can contact Joanne Cantor – 609.771.2438, or jcantor@tcnj.edu – directly. Ms. Cantor can also let you know your advisor's office hours.

2. Make sure you are acquainted with PAWS and check your PAWS account to determine whether you face any holds on registration. If an advising hold has been placed on your account, then you will need to contact your departmental advisor to discuss and to have that hold removed. If you need any help with the PAWS system, please contact me directly – 209.771.2360, or robertsm@tcnj.edu.
3. A mandatory meeting for majors is scheduled for Wednesday March 20 at 12:30 in the Bliss Hall Lounge. Please do not hesitate to raise any questions you have about the major at that meeting.
4. The Mini-Catalog lets you know just what courses in our department will be offered in the fall and gives you some detailed information about those courses. Please, also, do not hesitate to contact the instructor if you have any questions or need additional information about the course. The Mini-Catalog can be found here: <http://philos.pages.tcnj.edu/files/2012/05/MINICATALOGUE-Fall-20132.pdf>
5. The final page of Mini-Catalog – link just above – summarizes the requirements for the philosophy major as well as for the specializations in philosophy and for our programs in religion and classical studies. This would be a good time to review those requirements against what you have already accomplished to see what you need to do next.

To help as well, the last page of this Newsletter includes a sample sequence of courses for the philosophy major.

6. If you have already taken Introduction to Logic but no other course in philosophy, do keep in mind that you might want to take another 100-level course before you tackle our upper-level courses. Seats in both Contemporary Moral Issues and in Introduction to Philosophy should

remain available for first and second year students throughout registration period. Similarly, if you've already taken CMI or IP, it might be time to do Introduction to Logic. Again, seats should remain available for first and second year students. Please do let me know if you face any obstacle there. These courses are described in the Mini-Catalog.

7. For those majors and minors who have already done some work at the 100- or 200-level, our schedule for the fall is amazing. It includes **History of Ancient** (required for the major); **Metalogic** (counts as an elective toward the major); **Aesthetics** (counts as an elective toward the major); **Philosophy of Law** (counts as an elective toward the major and meets requirements for the Law and Society Interdisciplinary Concentration and the Politics, Law and Philosophy minor); and **Metaphysics** (satisfies a requirement for the major); and more. Again, please do not hesitate to contact the instructors directly for further information!
8. Especially for juniors You should take special care that you are on target for completing your senior capstone requirement. Normally, the research component of the capstone is completed during the fall of the senior year and the writing component during the spring. So: (A) please identify the faculty member you would like to complete your senior capstone with; (B) contact that person to set up a meeting; (C) try to agree on an area of common research interest and on whether your aim should be a senior thesis or a senior project; and (D) enroll in the appropriate research component of the capstone with that faculty member. That person will henceforth serve as your project, or thesis, advisor. And, between now and the commencement of the fall term, keep in close contact with that advisor so that you will be prepared to start work on your capstone at the beginning of the fall term.
9. Our departmental web site, with information about the major and our other programs, courses and faculty bios can be found here: <http://philos.pages.tcnj.edu/>

With all best regards,

Melinda Roberts
Chair of Department of Philosophy, Religion,
and Classical Studies
609.771.2360
robertsm@tcnj.edu

SAMPLE COURSE SEQUENCE FOR THE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

Freshman Year

FSP	First Seminar	1 course unit
WRI	102/Academic Writing	1 course unit
	Foreign Language	2 course units
	Quantitative Reasoning	1 course unit
	Two electives in Philosophy (100-level; 200-level with permission)	2 course units
	One elective	1 course unit

Sophomore Year

	Foreign Language	1 course unit
	Laboratory Science	2 course units
	Literature	1 course unit
PHL	120 Introduction to Logic <i>or</i> 220/Metalogic	1 course unit
PHL	201/History of Ancient Philosophy	1 course unit
PHL	205/History of Modern Philosophy	1 course unit
	One Elective	1 course unit

Junior Year

	Social Science/History	3 course units
PHL	350/Ethical Theory <i>or</i> 375/Law and Ethics	1 course unit
PHL	410/Theory of Knowledge <i>or</i> 420/Metaphysics	1 course unit
	One elective in philosophy (300-400 level)	1 course unit
	Two electives	2 course units

Senior Year

	Art	1 course unit
PHL	493/Senior Project Research <i>and</i> PHL 494/Senior Project <i>or</i> 495/Senior Thesis Research <i>and</i> 496/Senior Thesis	1 <i>or</i> 2 course unit
	One elective in philosophy (300-400 level)	1 course unit
	Five electives	5 course units