

Philosophy PhD Comprehensive Examination Requirements

The PhD Comprehensive Examination

1. All course work must be completed before the PhD Comprehensive Examination is taken.
2. Students preparing for the PhD Comprehensive Examination should register for PHIL 5605: Doctoral Exam the first semester after completing course work and PHIL 5606 for all succeeding semesters until their dissertation topic has been approved.
3. The PhD Comprehensive Examination is taken during the regular semester following completion of course work. Written permission from the Director of the Center must be obtained to schedule the PhD Comprehensive Examination at a different time.
4. The PhD Comprehensive Examination is organized by the Director of the Center or his or her appointee.
5. The PhD Comprehensive consists of two parts: a twelve-hour written examination, divided into two parts: six hours on ancient and medieval philosophy, six hours on early modern, late modern, and recent Thomistic materials. The candidate will take the written examination on two or three different days within two weeks of each other.
6. Questions will be solicited from all faculty in the Center for the written examination. At least two faculty members will grade each question. In consultation with a senior member of the Center, the Director will average the grades on the written test. Students must pass the written test with a minimum grade of "B" to proceed to the oral examination. If failed, the written exam may be retaken once, but must be retaken within one year of the date of the original exam.
7. The oral examination lasts one hour and must be taken within two weeks of the final part of the written examination. The oral examination is set by three faculty examiners chosen by the Director. The three examiners determine the grade for the oral exam. If the candidate passes the oral with a minimum grade of "B", the grades on the written and oral portions are compared and the overall grade is determined by vote. If a student fails the oral examination she/he must retake it within one year.

Book List for the PhD Comprehensive Examination

For this examination the student must choose twenty-four (24) books from the following menu of options:

Ancient Greek Philosophy (6 works must be chosen)

- Plato (Choose 2 works; the Republic is mandatory)
 - Republic (Mandatory) and Symposium or Gorgias or Timaeus or Phaedo
- Aristotle (Choose 3 works. Either Nicomachean Ethics or Politics is mandatory)
 - Nicomachean Ethics or Politics (Mandatory) and
 - Physics or On the Soul or Posterior Analytics or Metaphysics or Nicomachean Ethics or Politics

A sixth work may be chosen from the following:

- Plotinus, Enneads (selections)
- Porphyry & Aristotle, Isagoge & Categories
- Epicurus, Letter to Menoeceus and Principal Doctrines & Sayings
- Cicero, De Officiis

Medieval/Latin Philosophy (6 works must be chosen)

- Augustine (1 work must be chosen)
 - *Confessions* or *City of God*
- Aquinas (3 works must be chosen. 1 from each group below):
 - Group 1:
 - *De ente et essentia* and *Summa theologiae* Ia, qq. 1-7, 12-13, 44-46
 - *Commentary on Metaphysics* (selections)
 - Group 2:
 - *Summa theologiae* Ia, qq. 75-87
 - *Commentary on De anima* (selections)
 - Group 3:
 - *Summa theologiae* Ia-IIae, qq. 1-5, 55-67, 90-100
 - *Summa theologiae* Ia-IIae, qq. 1-20
 - *Commentary on the Nicomachean Ethics* (selections)

2 works must be chosen from the following menu of options:

- Scotus, Selections
- Suarez, *Metaphysical Disputations* (selections)
- Poinsett, *Treatise on Signs* or *De primo cognito*
- Ockham, Selections
- Bonaventure, *Journey of the Mind to God*
- Averroes, *Long Commentary on the De Anima*, Bk. 3
- Avicenna, *Metaphysics of the Healing* or *Physics of the Healing*, Bk. 117

Early Modern Philosophy (5 texts must be chosen; one must be by Kant)

- Descartes, *Meditations*
- Spinoza, *Ethics* I, II
- Leibniz, *Monadology* or *New Essays Concerning Human Understanding*
- Hobbes, *Leviathan* (selections)
- Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* or *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (selections)
- Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*
- Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* or *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* or *Dialogue on Natural Religion*
- Kant, *Prolegomenon to Any Future Metaphysics* or *Grounding of the Metaphysics of Morals* or one of the three Critiques

Late Modern Philosophy (4 works must be chosen, 2 from A and 2 from B)

- Group A
 - Hegel, *Philosophy of Right* or *Phenomenology of Spirit*
 - Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*
 - Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling* or *Either/Or*
 - Heidegger, *Basic Problems of Phenomenology* or *Being and Time* or *On the Essence of Truth*
 - Husserl, *The Crisis of the European Sciences, Ideas, or Cartesian Meditations*
 - Gadamer, *Truth and Method*
 - Marx, *Communist Manifesto* and *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*
 - Sartre, *Being and Nothingness*

- Group B
 - Peirce, "A New List of Categories" and "A Neglected Argument for the Existence of God"
 - Frege, "Sense and Reference" and Russell, "On Denoting" and *Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy*, Chapter 16: "Descriptions." (Frege and Russell are counted as one author.)
 - Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, Part I.
 - Kripke, *Naming and Necessity* and "Identity and Necessity"

Recent Thomistic Philosophy (3 authors must be chosen, Maritain, Gilson and one other)

- Maritain, *The Degrees of Knowledge* or *Integral Humanism* or *An Introduction to the Basic Problems of Moral Philosophy* or *Existence and the Existent* and *Preface to Metaphysics*
- Gilson, *The Unity of Philosophical Experience* or *Being and Some Philosophers* or *Christian Philosophy*
- Owens, *An Elementary Christian Metaphysics*
- Finnis, *Moral, Political, and Legal Theory*
- Lonergan, *Insight*
- MacIntyre, *After Virtue* or *Three Rival Versions of Moral Enquiry*
- Simon, *Philosophy of Democratic Government*