

Department of Philosophy

Tel : +82 2 961 0228 Fax : +82 2 963 3152 E-mail : khsophia@khu.ac.kr URL : <http://web.kyunghee.ac.kr/~sophia>

What is Philosophy?

The word “philosophy” is from Greek and means “love of wisdom”. Philosophy examines the grounds for fundamental beliefs and analyzes the basic concepts employed in the expression of such beliefs. That is, philosophy is a domain of study of the ultimate reality, causes, and principles underlying our being and thinking. Philosophy falls into three major branches: Epistemology, Ontology, Theory of Value (ethics and aesthetics). Epistemology investigates the nature of knowledge and the process of knowing. Ontology (Metaphysics) inquires into the existence and existential nature of everything of the universe. Ethics deals with the problem of right conduct and aesthetic attempts to determine the nature of beauty and the criteria of artistic judgment. The Eastern world is another source of philosophical thoughts. Most eastern philosophy was founded on religious ideas and contains rigorously developed systems. Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Taoism, Jainism are representative eastern thoughts of philosophy. Though there are differences between eastern and western philosophy, both commonly explore the essential and fundamental areas of all knowledge. So, philosophy is called “science of science” or “studies not for knowledge, but for knowledge itself.”

Philosophy at Kyung Hee

The Department of Philosophy was founded in 1979, under the name of National Ethics. The name was changed to Department of Philosophy in 1987. The department has 5 faculty members, roughly 160 undergraduate students, and about 20 graduate students.

The Department offers programs of study leading to the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts, and Bachelor of Arts. The programs emphasize comparative philosophy, metaphysics, ethics, history of philosophy, Buddhism, and Confucian philosophy. The program leading to the Bachelor of Arts emphasizes training for the fundamentals of scholarly research and teaching.

The great advantage of the Department of Philosophy is that it offers academic excellence on a personal scale. Although the Department is still young and relatively small, intellectual life within the Department can be both intimate and challenging. At the same time, it is possible – and in fact quite common – for students to reach out to other disciplines for scholarly growth. In sum, it is a department that spans the universe of knowledge yet provides a wealth of opportunities for individual achievement and recognition.

Seminars and colloquia on various issues and topics are scheduled regularly, consisting of talks by visiting and resident philosophers and other humanists. These constitute an important component of the student educational program.

The Department awards various types of fellowships and scholarships to help students meet the cost of education. These awards are intended to further the recipients’ education and recipients are expected to devote full time to their studies and to any required research and training.

Degree Requirements

To receive the Bachelor of Arts in Dept. of Philosophy, a student must:

1) Complete required units as follows

a) Students who major in philosophy should:

- complete a minimum of 130 credit units.
- satisfy (minimum) 66 units of Major Courses for philosophy as follows: complete 21 units of Prerequisite Courses for philosophy complete 45 units of Technical Electives for philosophy.

b) Students who minor in philosophy should:

- complete a minimum of 130 credit units.
- satisfy (minimum) 21 units of Prerequisite Courses for philosophy.
- satisfy (minimum) 38 units of Cultural Studies as listed above in a).

c) Students who double major in philosophy should:

- complete a minimum of 130 credit units.
- satisfy (minimum) 48 units of Major Courses for philosophy as follows: complete 21 units of Prerequisite Courses for philosophy complete 27 units of Technical Electives for philosophy.
- satisfy (minimum) 38 units of the Cultural Studies as listed above in a).

2) Satisfy a graduate examination through a graduation thesis

Courses

Year 1

Complete 3 cultural studies in philosophy department, such as Logic & Thinking, Base of Eastern Philosophy, and Base of Western Philosophy.

Year 2, 3, 4

Complete 7 prerequisite courses of philosophy, such as History of Chinese Philosophy, History of Korean Philosophy, Introduction to Buddhism, Greek Philosophy, Modern Philosophy of West, Epistemology, and Ethics.

And complete more than 15 selective courses of philosophy (9 selective courses needed for a multiple major, but nothing needed for a minor), related to Metaphysics, Taoism, Confucianism, Social Philosophy, Aesthetics, German Philosophy, French Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Analytical Philosophy, Historical Philosophy, Hindu Philosophy, Teaching Methodology for Discourse, and many other realms.

Careers and Graduate Destinations

There are many routes for graduates of our department. Many students choose to enter the education field in middle or high schools. Others occupy philosophy-related realms, such as communication areas, and publishing circles. Most students get jobs in companies of various fields and have active careers. Not a few graduates go on to the next stage of education, i. e. master and Ph.D. degree of philosophy in various universities. And some students choose another field of graduate course, such as sociology, politics, theology, economics, and literature. Our department offers students a strong program of developing requisite abilities —critical thinking faculty, language ability, and personality —for being an excellent agent in society.

Faculty

Jung-Sik Choi, Ph.D. Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle, 1992, Professor, Greek and French Philosophy, jschoi@khu.ac.kr

Soo-Jung Kim, Ph.D. Seoul National University, 1991, Professor, Confucianism, sujung@khu.ac.kr

Woo-Sung Huh, Ph.D. University of Hawaii, 1988, Professor, Buddhism, huh111@hinet.net

Yoen-Kyo Jung, Ph.D. University of Rochester, 1992, Professor, Ethics, ykjung@khu.ac.kr

In-Cheol Park, Ph.D. Universitaet Wuppertel, 2000, Associate Professor, German Philosophy, heimwelt@khu.ac.kr

Suk-Yoon Moon, Ph.D. Seoul National University, 1995, Professor, Korean Philosophy, symoon@khu.ac.kr

Sung-Ho Choi, Ph.D. Seoul National University, 2003, Associate Professor, Philosophy of Science,

choise80@khu.ac.kr