

# SF SCHOLARS STUDY GUIDE

## Philosophy

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

SFSU ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Department of Philosophy online: [www.philosophy.sfsu.edu](http://www.philosophy.sfsu.edu)

Department of Philosophy advising: [www.philosophy.sfsu.edu/advising](http://www.philosophy.sfsu.edu/advising)

- Make sure you take first all the core requirements for the BA Major in Philosophy, and start with the 100-400 level courses.
- If you have a GPA above 3.0, you can apply to the SF State Scholars Program as early as the end of your freshman year.
- The application for the SF Scholars program is here <http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/scholars-4-1-program>
- You will need to achieve B or higher grades in a critical mass of specific coursework before doing graduate-level seminars, so we advise you to prioritize taking the classes listed below before taking other electives.

### **Coursework to complete before taking graduate level courses:**

1. Logic (must be equivalent to PHIL 205)
  2. Ancient Philosophy (PHIL 301)
  3. Modern Philosophy (PHIL 303)
  4. Ethics (PHIL 450)
  5. One course in Metaphysics and Epistemology (broadly construed):
    - Philosophy of Science (PHIL 350)
    - Metaphysics (PHIL 605)
    - Theory of Knowledge (PHIL 610)
    - Philosophy of Perception (PHIL 611)
    - Philosophy of Mind (PHIL 620)
    - Philosophy of Language (PHIL 630)
- Once you start taking graduate-level seminars, we advise you to reduce your course load, because you will be doing more intense philosophical work.
    - A general rule is that for students taking all graduate-level courses (and who are also working 20 hours a week), we advise that they do at most three “things” at SFSU. Candidates for “things” are both graduate-level classes and 3-unit teaching obligations. The reason we suggest this workload is because so often students who get Bs in their graduate seminars do so because they are not putting enough time toward their studies. We want our students rested up so that they can think abstractly. (And students need to be achieving all

As and A-s in order to get into top PhD and JD programs). The hardest thing about following this advice is picking which three “things” to do in a given semester when there are so many amazing options.

- Once you are accepted to the program and have completed a critical mass of your undergraduate coursework and a critical mass of the five courses listed above, you can soon take your first seminar, which should be PHIL 715 – Seminar in Philosophical Writing (though it can be another seminar with the approval of the instructor). You should not do more than one graduate-level seminar or coursework before you complete PHIL 715.

If you hope to receive undergraduate credit for courses taken at other universities, please list those courses below, and specify which requirements you hope they will meet. Attach a syllabus for each course.

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