

Philosophy: Social Justice

Loyola University Chicago's College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) offers undergraduates a comprehensive liberal arts education that introduces them to various disciplines and viewpoints in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. CAS students develop valuable career and life skills, including critical thinking, strong verbal and writing abilities, comprehensive general knowledge, social awareness, and research competencies. As the largest of Loyola's 10 schools, CAS has extensive resources, providing students with modern labs and electronic classrooms, opportunities to participate actively in research, and a distinguished faculty of teacher-scholars.

Recent growth and renovation at both Loyola's Lake Shore and Water Tower Campuses have enhanced living and learning for students. Some of the additions include the state-of-the-art Quinlan Life Sciences Education and Research Center, two residence halls, the Loyola University Museum of Art, and the Sullivan Center for Student Services, which consolidates more than a dozen campus offices into one convenient location. The Information Commons, a high-tech, environmentally designed library, study space, and instructional center, opened in early 2008.

For more information about what's new at Loyola, visit LUC.edu/undergrad/whatsnew.

At top right: Information Commons, a new four-story lakeside research facility at the Lake Shore Campus, opened in early 2008 and provides a large individual study space for students, state-of-the-art technology with more than 250 computers, wireless Internet connections, and a lakefront café.



THE MAJOR

BA in Philosophy: Social Justice

Social justice is a central area of study in philosophy and is directly related to Loyola's mission of working to expand knowledge in the service of humanity through learning, justice, and faith. The bachelor's degree in philosophy with an emphasis in social justice builds upon strong undergraduate courses that the Department of Philosophy offers in this area, including foundational studies in the nature of justice and the presence of justice in contemporary social and political contexts. Courses in this program are carefully arranged in a planned sequence, and faculty members make a conscious effort to highlight the social justice dimensions of their respective subject matters.

The program's anchor course is Ethics and Society (Philosophy, PHIL 321). This course provides the philosophical foundation and historical context for the other upper-level courses in ethics and social philosophy that make up this specialized degree program. Students pursuing the major are also allowed to enroll in graduate courses in social philosophy on a case-by-case basis. The program culminates with a capstone seminar (PHIL 398/399) devoted to justice issues.

The BA in Philosophy with an emphasis in social justice provides first-rate preparation for students planning to pursue graduate work in philosophy. It also provides an excellent foundation for careers in law, politics, social policy, and public service.



MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Students majoring in philosophy with an emphasis in social justice must complete a minimum of eleven courses. The required courses for this program are identical to those of the regular philosophy major, with the exception of PHIL 321. Three upper-level electives and the capstone seminar must have an emphasis in social justice. Each student's major program must include:

- One lower-level philosophy course in the ethics group (PHIL 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189), or a 300-level equivalent). Note: PHIL 182 (Social and Political Philosophy) is strongly recommended.
- One lower-level philosophy course in the metaphysics or epistemology group (PHIL 171, 172, 173, 175, 176, 177, 179, 180), or a 300-level equivalent. Note: These courses include Being Human (PHIL 180), but not Logic (PHIL 174).
- One course in logic (PHIL 174 or 301)
- Ancient Philosophy (PHIL 304)
- Classical Modern Philosophy (PHIL 309)
- One anchor course, Ethics and Society (PHIL 321)
- Three 300-level social justice electives*
- One open philosophy elective (any philosophy course at any level)
- One capstone seminar (392–399) with a social justice emphasis

*Social justice-oriented electives include Philosophy of Law (PHIL 326), Political Philosophy (PHIL 326), Topics in Political Philosophy (PHIL 327), Philosophy of Marxism (PHIL 375), and History of Ethics (PHIL 388). Elective courses may also include (depending on content) Perspectives on Women (PHIL 322), Topics in Ethics (PHIL 324), Contemporary Philosophical Issues (PHIL 389), and 300-level courses pertaining to bioethics when they focus on justice issues. Decisions related to the appropriateness of course content will be made by the Social Justice Emphasis Director.

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE

- **First Year:** Two courses in metaphysics/epistemology and ethics/social political
- **Second Year:** Two courses in metaphysics/epistemology and ethics/social political
- **Third Year:** Three courses (PHIL 321 and two 300-level social justice electives)
- **Fourth Year:** Three courses (two electives, including one 300-level social justice course, plus a capstone social justice seminar)

To view a checklist for the philosophy major with a social justice emphasis, visit LUC.edu/philosophy/social-justice-checklist.shtml.

CORE CURRICULUM

- Focuses on desired knowledge, skills, and values in addition to academic disciplines.
- Includes 45 credit hours of coursework, developing important skills through 10 required areas of knowledge.
 - Important skills include communication, critical thinking, ethical awareness, information literacy, quantitative and qualitative analysis, research methods, and technological literacy.
 - Required areas include college writing seminar(s), artistic knowledge and experience, historical knowledge, literary knowledge, scientific literacy, societal and cultural knowledge, philosophical knowledge, theological and religious studies, and ethics.
- "Values Across the Curriculum" requirements:
 - 12 credit hours completed through the Core, major, or electives, focusing on:
 - Understanding and promoting justice
 - Understanding diversity in the United States and the world
 - Understanding spirituality or faith in action in the world
 - Promoting civic engagement or leadership
- Makes up about one-third of a student's Loyola academic experience, complemented by the major and electives.
- Incorporates great flexibility with myriad courses from which to choose for each required area. Courses may be completed at any time during a student's Loyola education.

For more information, please visit LUC.edu/core.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Undergraduate Admission Office
1032 W. Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois 60660
Phone: 800.262.2373
E-mail: admission@luc.edu
Web site: LUC.edu/undergrad

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Thomas Wren, Social Justice Emphasis Director
Department of Philosophy
Loyola University Chicago
1032 W. Sheridan Road
Chicago, Illinois 60660
Phone: 773.508.2291
E-mail: twren@luc.edu
Web site: LUC.edu/philosophy

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