The New School for Social Research

Student Handbook for the
Department of Philosophy

2014-2015
TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .............................................................................................................. 2
FACULTY .......................................................................................................................... 2
STUDENT ADVISOR ......................................................................................................... 4
FACULTY ADVISING ...................................................................................................... 4
PHILOSOPHY STUDENT FORUM ..................................................................................... 4
PEOPLE IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN IN PHILOSOPHY ................................................ 5
WORKS-IN-PROGRESS SERIES ................................................................................... 5
THE GRADUATE FACULTY PHILOSOPHY JOURNAL .................................................. 5
THE HANNAH ARENDT/REINER SCHÜRMANN MEMORIAL SYMPOSIA IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY THE THURSDAY NIGHT WORKSHOP ................................................................. 5
MAILBOXES ................................................................................................................... 6
E-MAIL ............................................................................................................................. 6
FINANCIAL AID ............................................................................................................... 6
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS ............................................................................................. 6
THE CONTINUING MA DEGREE .................................................................................. 7
  Time Limit .................................................................................................................... 7
  Course Requirements ................................................................................................. 7
  Seminars ...................................................................................................................... 7
  Logic Requirement ..................................................................................................... 7
  Language Requirement .............................................................................................. 7
  MA Examinations ........................................................................................................ 8
  Master’s Thesis ........................................................................................................... 9
  Graduation .................................................................................................................. 9
  Application to the PhD Program ................................................................................. 9
THE TERMINAL MA DEGREE ....................................................................................... 10
THE MA WITH A CONCENTRATION IN PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDIES ..................... 10
THE PHD DEGREE ....................................................................................................... 10
  Time Limit .................................................................................................................. 10
  Course Requirements ................................................................................................. 10
  Language Requirement ............................................................................................... 11
  PhD Qualifying Papers ............................................................................................... 11
  Dissertation ................................................................................................................ 11
  Dissertation Area Exam ............................................................................................. 12
  Defense of the Dissertation ......................................................................................... 12
  Granting the PhD Degree ......................................................................................... 12
THE MPHIL DEGREE .................................................................................................. 12
TRANSFER STUDENTS ................................................................................................ 13
Important Form Locations ............................................................................................ 14
ATTACHMENT A ............................................................................................................ 15
INTRODUCTION
This student handbook is intended to be a supplement to the orientation materials provided to new students and The New School for Social Research Catalogue, both of which are available from the Admissions Office. For more general information please consult the Orientation Manual. For information concerning The New School for Social Research wide academic requirements, please consult the attached appendix. This handbook provides information of interest to Philosophy students alone. For those of you who are new to The New School for Social Research, this Philosophy Student handbook will offer a brief introduction to the Department, its faculty, a detailed discussion of degree requirements, as well as an introduction to student activities in the department.

FACULTY
Jay M. Bernstein. Jay M. Bernstein, University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy joined the department in the spring of 2001. His current research includes ethics, political philosophy (especially Arendt), critical theory (especially Adorno), modernism in art and philosophy, Kant, and Hegel. His most recent books are Adorno: Disenchantment and Ethics (2002); Classical and Romantic German Aesthetics (editor, 2002); and Against Voluptuous Bodies: Late Modernism and the Meaning of Painting (2005). He is working on a book provisionally entitled "Torture and Dignity".

Richard J. Bernstein. Vera List Professor of Philosophy and former chair, joined the department in the spring of 1989. He is past president of the American Philosophical Association, and was former Dean of the New School for Social Research. Professor Richard Bernstein's interests include American pragmatism, the Frankfurt School and critical theory, social and political philosophy, and Anglo-American philosophy. His most recent books are Radical Evil: A Philosophic Interrogation (2002); The Abuse of Evil: The Corruption of Politics and Religion since 9/11 (2005): The Pragmatic Turn (2010); The Rorty Reader (Co-edited with Christopher Voparil, 2010).


Nancy Fraser. Henry A. and Louise Loeb Professor of Political and Social Science. Her interests include social and political philosophy, feminist theory, and contemporary French and German thought. Her two most recent books are Scales of Justice: Reimagining Political Space in a Globalizing World (2008) and Nancy Fraser with her critics, Adding Insult to Injury: Debating Redistribution, Recognition and Representation, ed. Kevin Olson (2008). She current holds an Einstein Visiting Fellowship at the Free University in Berlin.

Agnes Heller. (Emerita), Hannah Arendt Professor of Philosophy and former chair, joined the department in spring 1986 after having taught in Hungary, Germany and Australia. Her interests include Lukács, ethics and moral theory, the structure of modernity, social and political philosophy, and aesthetics. Professor Heller’s most recent books in English are: The Immortal Comedy (2005) and The Time is Out of Joint: Shakespeare as Philosopher of History (2002). She is currently completing a book on the philosophical significance of contemporary historical novels.


Yirmiyahu Yovel. (Emeritus) Hans Jonas Professor of Philosophy. His interests include Spinoza, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, existential philosophy, and the Jewish rationalists. His best known books are Kant and the Philosophy of History (1980) and Spinoza and Other Heretics (two volumes) (1989). His last published books in English are: Dark Riddle: Hegel, Nietzsche, and the Jews (1998); the edited anthology Ethica IV: Spinoza on Reason and the Free Man (2004); Hegel’s Preface to the Phenomenology of Spirit (2004); and The Other Within: The Marranos: Split Identity and Emerging Modernity (2009).
Alice M. Crary. Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophy, joined the department in the fall of 2000. She has published articles on ethics, moral psychology, philosophy and literature, feminist theory, the history of analytic philosophy and animals and ethics. She is the author of Beyond Moral Judgment (Harvard, 2007). She is also the co-editor of The New Wittgenstein (Routledge, 2000), the co-editor of Reading Cavell (Routledge, 2005) and the editor of Wittgenstein and the Moral Life: Essays in Honor of Cora Diamond (MIT, 2006). She is currently finishing a book on human beings and animals entitled Inside Ethics.


Zed Adams. Assistant Professor of Philosophy, received his PhD from the University of Chicago and joined the department in the fall of 2008. His interests include ethics, aesthetics, and philosophy of mind.

Chiara Bottici. Assistant Professor of Philosophy, taught at the University of Frankfurt before joining the Department in 2010. She has written on myth, imagination, ancient and early modern philosophy, Frankfurt School, psychoanalysis, Marxism, anarchism, contemporary social and political philosophy. Her recent books include: The Myth of the Clash of Civilisations (Routledge 2010, co-author), The Politics of Imagination (Routledge, Birkbeck Law Press 2010, co-editor), A Philosophy of Political Myth (Cambridge University Press 2007) and Men and States (Palgrave 2009).

Cinzia Arruzza. Assistant Professor of Philosophy, taught at the University of Bonn, where she was the recipient of an Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung Fellowship, before joining the Department in 2010. Her interests include ancient metaphysics and political philosophy, Patristics, contemporary political philosophy, Marxism and feminism. She is currently working on contemporary readings of Plato's political thought and on gender and social reproduction. Her recent books include Les mé saventures de la théodicée. Plotin, Origène et Grégoire de Nyssse (Brepols, 2011).

Omri Boehm. Assistant Professor of Philosophy, joined the department in 2010. His interests include Kant and Early Modern Philosophy (Spinoza/Descartes), as well as Philosophy of Religion and Existentialism. He is currently working on the connection between Descartes' Cogito and Kant's Sublime. His recent Publications include "Kant and Spinoza Debating the Third Antinomy" (2010), "Kant's Idea of the Unconditioned and Spinoza's" (forthcoming, 2010) and The Binding of Isaac: a Religious Model of Disobedience (2007).

David Carr. Adjunct Professor of Philosophy. He is the Charles Howard Chandler Professor of Philosophy at Emory University. His research interests include Nineteenth and Twentieth Century European philosophy, Husserl, and the Philosophy of history. He is translator of Husserl’s The Crisis of European Sciences (1970). Among his publications are Phenomenology and the Problem of History (1974), Time, Narrative and History (1991), Interpreting Husserl (1987), and The Paradox of Subjectivity (Oxford, 1999).


Alan Bass. Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, has translated a number of works by Jacques Derrida, and is a practicing psychoanalyst serving on the faculties of several psychoanalytic institutes. His recent books include Difference and Disavowal: The Trauma of Eros (2000) and Interpretation and Difference: The Strangeness of Care (2006).

Bernard Flynn. Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, teaches courses on modern and contemporary French philosophy. His most recent books are Political Philosophy at the Closure of Metaphysics (1996), The Philosophy of Claude Lefort: Interpreting the Political (2005), and coeditor of Merleau-Ponty and the Possibilities of Philosophy (SUNY press, 2010).
Ross Poole, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy. His main interests are in political and moral philosophy, but he often strays into other fields, including (most recently) memory, philosophy of literature, and the political emotions. He has published two books, Morality and Modernity (1991) and Nation and Identity (1999), and he is working on a third entitled “Past Justice.”

STUDENT ADVISOR
The Student Advisors (SA) for the 2014-15 academic year are Ryan Gustafson (212) 229-5707 ext. 3080 / philadvisor@newschool.edu and Hoyeon Lim (212) 229-5707 ext. 3399 / philosophws@newschool.edu. The SAs are a point of contact between the students, faculty, and administration. Their primary duty is to guide students through various bureaucratic procedures, e.g., registration, exams, graduation, etc. The SAs are a source of information and administrative guidance. If you have any questions about academic policies, departmental or administrative procedures, degree requirements, etc., it is the SAs’ job to answer them. You should also contact the SAs if you run into any problems that prevent you from fulfilling academic requirements. There is no guarantee that every problem will be resolved, but the earlier you notify them, the better.

The SAs receive a yearly salary. A general job description is available from the current SAs or the Office of Academic Affairs. The SAs are chosen by the faculty through an application process normally during the spring semester (and these part-time, one-year positions may be reviewed for reappointment by the department and academic affairs).

FACULTY ADVISING
All incoming students are assigned either to the MA or PhD Faculty Advisor, who should be consulted about academic plans, course selection, and related issues at least once a semester during the first year of study. See the Student Advisors for the name of the current MA or PhD Faculty Advisor. It is strongly advised that early on in their graduate studies students should attempt to get to know the different members of the faculty during their respective office hours and at various departmental events, in order to establish an amenable and productive working relationship. Students should not go to the MA or PhD Faculty Advisors regarding bureaucratic issues, degree requirements, etc. The latter types of questions should be directed to the SA.

PHILOSOPHY STUDENT FORUM
The Forum is comprised of all matriculated students in the Department of Philosophy at the Graduate Faculty of New School University. The Forum is a democratic body organized to express the collective student desire to have more active participatory role in the way the Department of Philosophy is managed. Its purpose is to represent externally the general will of its members to the faculty of the Department of Philosophy, the Graduate Faculty Student Senate (GFSS), the University Student Senate (USS), and the administration of New School University, including those of its component divisions. The Forum is a means whereby its members are capable of internally supporting and encouraging, fiscally or otherwise, the many projects of its members’ interests, e.g. People in Support of Women in Philosophy, an annual Graduate Faculty student conference, the many topical student-run workshops, and various other groups created from a spontaneous demand for supplementary education.

The Forum meets once a month to discuss any and all business directly related to student concerns with department faculty, administration, or the program as a whole. While the Forum’s concerns vary each year, we (more or less) regularly: commence each year with a State of the Department address from the department chair; maintain and foster important extra-departmental relations, most notably with the GFSS and University Student Senate; allocate monies on a semester basis to intra-departmental student organizations and conference committees; oversee and execute democratic procedures for recording and expressing student opinion, about various issues, as needed; establish committees and teams to effectively convey student opinion, these including but not limited to a team of peer-elected Faculty Liaisons; plan and oversee long-term strategies on focus issues, often working in tandem with university administrators; conclude each year with a departmental Town Hall meeting to discuss academic and professional opportunities, and new and ongoing issues in academic culture.

Further details can be found in the Philosophy Forum Constitution and the email address for the group is PhilosophyForum@newschool.edu.
PEOPLE IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN IN PHILOSOPHY

People in Support of Women in Philosophy (PSWIP) is a publication support group comprised of both women and men within the graduate program of the Philosophy Department. The overall goal of the group is the advancement of women in philosophy via professional development. The group meets weekly to discuss a member’s paper with the aim of preparing the work for either conference presentation or publication. It is committed to the maintenance of a forum within which women’s voices are privileged and rigorous discussion of women’s philosophical work can take place. Although PSWIP has its origins in the study of explicitly feminist philosophy, the contemporary focus has shifted to include a breadth of topics as women philosophers address them. We see this forum as an important alternative to the consistent minority that women occupy within philosophy departments, philosophy classrooms, and other philosophical forums. PSWIP is by no means a replacement for such forums, but rather a critical space reserved for women to develop their philosophical potential outside the standard academic environment.

PSWIP is also a group which is meant to question its own conditions of possibility. Although institutional attempts to include and integrate women in academia and in philosophy have been made, and although our numerical under-representation may be adjusted, the unique position of women, both historically and at the moment, must be examined, interpreted, and moreover created. The deficit in the philosophical tradition regarding women’s contributions entails also a fundamental contemporary ignorance about how women will now shape and initiate philosophical discourse. Acknowledging this ignorance, PSWIP asserts its character as an actively experimental group. By cultivating a forum in which members can probe questions and pursue inquiries collectively – as a group which comes together out of a shared concern and interest in the question of women in philosophy - it means to tailor an experimental approach to the relevant circumstances of the given moment, while remaining open to changing conditions which member’s work and times will generate.

In addition to conference and publication preparation, the essays presented at weekly meetings can also be published in the PSWIP online journal, published at the start of each academic year beginning fall 2008. Copies of past journals are archived and available at Fogelman Library.

Contact the group at WIP@newschool.edu for more information.

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS SERIES

The Works-in-Progress Series (hereafter Works) provides a forum for Philosophy students at The New School for Social Research to present their work within a critical, constructive, and yet friendly environment. Typically, students present work in preparation for either giving a paper at a philosophy conference or submitting an article to a journal for publication. Thus, Works sees itself, on the one hand, as a space in which graduate students can gain initial experience in a conference setting and, on the other hand, as a round-table from which writers may obtain critical peer-review. The group is typically run on a volunteer basis, so any students interested in facilitating its activities should contact the SA.

THE GRADUATE FACULTY PHILOSOPHY JOURNAL

The Journal is a professional publication dedicated to providing a forum in which contemporary authors engage with the history of philosophy and its traditions. Past contributors include Rémi Brague, Jacques Derrida, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Jürgen Habermas, and Reiner Schürmann; translations of works by Hegel, Nietzsche, and Heidegger have also been published in the GFPJ; and occasionally the Journal devotes an issue to a single figure or topic. The Journal is published biannually and edited by advanced graduate students in the Department of Philosophy at The New School for Social Research. The application process for positions on the Journal’s editorial staff begins in the fall. Students are encouraged to apply.

THE HANNAH ARENDT/REINER SCHÜRMANN MEMORIAL SYMPOSIA IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND THE THURSDAY NIGHT WORKSHOP

Hannah Arendt, who taught at the Graduate Faculty (now named The New School for Social Research) until her death in 1975, is remembered each year with a two-day long symposium. With the death in 1993 of long-time faculty member Reiner Schürmann, who founded the series, the Symposium was renamed to include him in his memory. Past invited speakers have included Karl-Otto Apel, Kwame Anthony Appiah, Etienne Balibar, Seyla Benhabib, Robert Bernasconi, Margaret Canovan, Cornelius Castoriadis, Jacques Derrida, Michel Henry, Axel Honneth, Reinhart Koselleck, Berel Lang, Jean-François Lyotard, Lucius Outlaw, Otto Poggeler, Paul Ricoeur, Charles Taylor, Stephen Toulmin, Peter Winch, Sheldon Wolin, Cornel West, and Paul Woffff.

In addition to the Hannah Arendt/Reiner Schürmann Symposium, distinguished scholars deliver lectures in the
department throughout the year, which usually take place on Thursday evenings. In the past, speakers have included Robert Brandom, Adriana Cavarero, Michael Frede, Klaus Held, Jürgen Habermas, Claude Lefort, Jean-Luc Marion, and Richard Rorty. Students are encouraged to attend the Thursday night department lecture series as well as the post-lecture reception.

MAILBOXES
All current, matriculated students living in the proximate area of the school have a mailbox located near the department office. Information concerning special events, correspondence, exam results, and other administrative paperwork are regularly put in your box. Such information is also usually posted on the walls around the department office. It is an excellent idea to check your mail as well as the information posted on the walls. If for some reason you are not included on the mailbox list within one month of the start of the term, see the SAs and they will assign you a box.

E-MAIL
The SAs cannot use personal email accounts as a means of contact. Students must use their New School email account for all school-related matters. Important information such as announcements of exam results being available, grant and adjunct teaching opportunities, petition deadlines, registration, office hours, course offerings, seminar reservation procedures, and all departmental activities are sent to students through their New School e-mail account. Remember to sign up for an account at Academic Technology. If you are not receiving regular announcements from the Student Advisor via your e-mail account, then it is possible that your e-mail address is not on the department list. In this case, notify the SAs immediately.

FINANCIAL AID
Below is a list of financial aid categories available to Philosophy students that are not all indicated in The New School for Social Research Catalogue and are not available through the normal financial aid application form. The University and Dissertation Fellowships, however, are described in the Catalogue, though a special application procedure applies.

Departmental Research Assistants
Each year, the Philosophy Department receives a variable number of positions for Research Assistants. (Sometimes the department splits these appointments.)

University Fellowships
These are one year, full-tuition fellowships. In the spring semester applications must be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs in order to be reviewed by the Department of Philosophy. More detailed information will be available at that time.

Dissertation Fellowships
These are described in the NSSR Catalogue. Applications are available from The New School for Social Research Office of Academic Affairs.

NSSR Teaching Fellowships (at Eugene Lang College and elsewhere in The New School)
These are available on a highly competitive basis to advanced students. Each teaching fellow offers a course that s/he has designed. The application process and deadlines are announced early in the fall semester through the NSSR Office of Academic Affairs. Departments will review applications; then Lang as well as any other divisions selecting fellows for the following academic year may interview prospective applicants. Final notification about the teaching fellowship awards is completed by March, the spring before the appointment

For more information on funding opportunities and application procedures see the Academic Affairs Appendix.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
There are five sets of requirements for the four types of degree standing granted by the department: 1) the Continuing MA (for students continuing toward the PhD degree), 2) the Terminal MA, 3) the MA with a Concentration in Psychoanalytic Studies (which may be either a terminal or continuing MA), 4) the PhD, and 5) the MPhil. For a breakdown of the five sets of degree requirements, see Attachment C.
THE CONTINUING MA DEGREE

Time Limit
Unless an extension is granted by the Department of Philosophy and the Office of Academic Affairs, all work for an MA degree must be completed in 5 years (10 semesters). This semester total does not include leaves of absence.

Course Requirements
The quantitative requirement for the MA is 30 credits: at least 24 credits must be philosophy courses or courses approved for philosophy credit, while 6 credits, which are not approved by the Chair for philosophy credit, may be taken in another graduate department as elective credits. Furthermore, the following distribution requirements must be met:

- Two seminars in philosophy
- One course in quantificational logic (may be fulfilled via exemption or exam)
- One course in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
- One course in Analytic Philosophy
- At least one course in two of the following three areas:
  1. Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy
  2. 18th and 19th Century Philosophy
  3. 20th Century Continental Philosophy
- An overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of B (3.0) must be maintained.

Students should consult the SA if there is any question as to whether a particular course will satisfy a particular distribution area. During registration the SA will make available a list containing the distribution areas that each semester’s courses satisfy.

Seminars
Seminars are distinct from lectures in that there is an enrollment ceiling of 15 and students are expected to give presentations in class. Those courses numbered 6500 and above are seminars. Registration for these courses is conditioned upon reserving a spot in the desired course(s). Reservation may be made on a first come, first serve basis as per the instructions provided in a registration related email sent by the SAs prior to the start of each registration period. Please follow these instructions carefully as seminars often fill up within minutes of the beginning of the reservation period. For the best chance to reserve a spot for a desired seminar students should respond immediately after receiving the SAs’ announcement that reservations are being accepted. Reservations are made by a Google Form distributed to students by the SAs as per the instructions sent to your New School email.

Logic Requirement
There are three ways to satisfy the logic requirement: 1) take and pass the logic course for credit, 2) pass the logic exemption exam, or 3) receive an exemption due to prior coursework.

1. If you choose to take the course for credit, you have the further option of either taking the course for a grade, or taking it pass/fail. To take the class pass/fail, you must submit the proper forms to the Registrar (which includes the professor’s signature) when you register for the course. Failure to submit a Pass/Fail Request Form during registration means you will receive a grade at the end of the semester. There is also an incomplete policy which the student can request from the instructor at least two weeks prior to the final exam, or the date stipulated by the instructor.

2. If you choose to take the exemption exam, you must petition to do so by the third Friday of the semester (see attachment A). Students who choose to take the exemption exam may want to attend the course as either an official or unofficial auditor. Although auditing or sitting in is not required, it is recommended as the exemption exam is traditionally the final exam for the logic course. Though the logic course is offered once a year, the exam is offered both semesters. Depending upon the instructor, study materials may be available for those who wish to take the fall exam (see the SAs).

3. If you believe that prior coursework in logic may exempt you from this requirement, you should bring a copy of your transcript and syllabus from the prior course to the SAs.

Note: This requirement is waived for those pursing an MA with a Concentration in Psychoanalytic studies; however, continuing MA students are expected to satisfy the logic requirement for the PhD or MPhil. If you have questions regarding the logic requirement, please see the SAs.

Language Requirement
Successful completion of a translation examination in one of the following languages is required: Ancient Greek, Latin, French, or German. The date of the language exam will be announced by the SAs early in the semester, and
students wishing to attempt a translation examination must petition to do so. Petitions are due on the third Friday of the semester (see attachment A). The examination consists of a philosophical text to be translated into English within three hours; the use of a dictionary and/or a grammar book is permitted.

Matriculated NSSR students are entitled to a tuition-waiver for language courses offered by The New School for Public Engagement. See the NSSR Office of Academic Affairs during registration. Students are advised to obtain information early on during the registration period for language classes.

Reading groups are also a good way to prepare for the language exam. The department usually offers reading groups in Greek, Latin, French and German; students must enroll in these Reading groups during registration and will receive a grade of pass/fail for their participation in the group though it is not necessary for them to attempt a language translation examination as a consequence of enrollment.

MA Examinations
The MA examinations consist of four questions, two in a take-home written examination and two in an oral examination. The student can also choose to write a thesis covering two areas in place of the written examination (see more info below). The student chooses four questions from the five areas listed below (note that these are the same areas as the distribution requirements for courses above). The selection of questions for the oral examination must be from different sections than those chosen for the written examination, or thesis (if applicable).

1. Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
2. Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy
3. 18th and 19th Century Philosophy
4. 20th Century Continental Philosophy
5. 20th Century Analytic Philosophy

The written exam consists of at least five questions in each of the five subject areas. The student answers one question from each of the two areas in which they have selected to be examined. The oral exam follows the same format with one important distinction: the exam questions are known in advance and are made available after the written examination for the current semester has been offered. Students may choose oral exam questions from among the previous 3 semesters of written exams. One may also choose oral exam questions from the current semester’s written exam choices should one’s oral exam be scheduled after the written exam is held. The purpose of the oral exam is to test students’ oral skills and their ability to answer questions about their presentations before two members of the Department of Philosophy faculty. A student must not bring written answers to be read, but may bring one 3x5 inch index card if s/he wishes to bring brief notes. These notes may consist of an outline of one’s oral answer and/or relevant short quotations. Oral exam answers are strictly limited to ten minutes per question.

Petition deadlines and other exam dates
To take a written or an oral exam, students must submit an exam petition, which is distributed via email by the SAs. The deadline to petition for all exams is the third Friday after the beginning of the semester. On the petition you must state which questions you plan on answering for your oral exam. The SA in charge of coordinator exams arranges the date of each student’s oral exam.

The Department administers written exams twice a year, in late October and in the beginning of March. The exam will be written and distributed to students by the MA Faculty Advisor, and will be returned to the same by a specified date. The precise dates of the written examinations are available from the SAs and will be advertised in email correspondence at the beginning of each semester. The results of the oral exams are given at the conclusion of the exam. For the written exams, the SAs or Secretary will send an e-mail to all students announcing when the results are available (it is therefore important for students to ensure that the SAs have their current New School e-mail address). At that point, students can then contact the Secretary for their exam results.

Evaluation
In order to maintain eligibility for a continuing MA degree, a student may neither fail nor receive more than one low pass among the four MA exam questions (oral and written). This rule also applies to candidates who have been admitted to the PhD program before completing the examination requirements for the MA. A student who receives more than one low pass may still be eligible for the terminal MA degree.

Students who do not pass a written or oral examination, or who do not receive a sufficient number of high passes to maintain eligibility for continuing MA status, may re-take each exam once. Students who wish to retake the same questions must do so the following semester unless otherwise approved by the Chair. Students wishing to try
different questions with their second exam attempt may do so in the following or any subsequent semester (keeping in mind the time limits for the degree).

When preparing
There are at least three ways to prepare for exams. All three are recommended.
1. Old exam questions are kept on reserve in the SAs’ office for your review.
2. The SA has an extensive list of texts that correlate with exam areas. Note that you are not expected to have read all these texts. The reading list represents a broad survey of pertinent texts. There are some strategies for narrowing down the list.
   a. You may have already noted the correlation between course distribution areas and exam question categories. To be clear, there is no rigorous attempt to derive exam questions from courses offered over the past couple of years. Yet, it is probable that studying texts pertinent to courses offered over the past two or three years will help prepare the student. The SAs keeps a copy of all old Catalogues with complete course listings.
   b. Coursework should to some extent help prepare students for the exams. Students may therefore plan to take at least one course related to the area in which s/he has chosen to be examined. It is in the best interest of the student to anticipate well in advance the areas s/he will be examined in.
3. Finally, if a student knows others are being tested in the same areas, s/he may wish to form a study group.

Master’s Thesis
Students may elect to write a 50-75 page thesis instead of taking the MA written exam. The thesis must also cover two of the five topic areas, and its assessment includes an oral defense. Students planning to write an MA thesis must first secure the permission of an approved thesis advisor and submit the topic approval form (Attachment B) to the SA with the signatures of the second reader and the Chair of the Department. Students should not begin writing a thesis without having secured the necessary approval of their thesis topic. It is the student’s responsibility to secure approval of a topic from the thesis advisor, second reader and Chair, and submit an exam petition by the third Friday after classes start (see Attachment A). Students writing an MA thesis should work closely with their advisors in planning and writing their thesis. Final drafts of a thesis must be submitted to the thesis advisor and the second reader at least three weeks prior to the date scheduled for an oral defense. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of the thesis defense.

Students who plan to submit an MA thesis should anticipate when they expect to complete their thesis. Once a thesis has been approved for defense by the student’s readers, the supervisor will contact the SAs in order to begin the scheduling process. Scheduling concerns sometimes necessitate selecting a time and date for an oral defense at the beginning of the semester in which the MA thesis is to be submitted. Once a date has been agreed upon, the SAs reserve a room and reminds the committee a week in advance of the defense date. At the defense, students should make a short oral statement (no more than ten minutes) summarizing their thesis. This statement cannot be read, but notes may be used. A question and answer period will follow. The grading of the MA thesis will follow the same structure as that of the MA written examination, though students will not receive separate scores of high pass, low pass, or fail on each of the areas their thesis covers, but one mark to be applied to both areas. Students choosing to write an MA thesis and who wish to continue towards the PhD must take the oral exam.

Graduation
Students must petition for the MA degree (and can do so online) through the University Registrar. Degrees are conferred twice each year, in January and in June. Students who intend on continuing into the PhD program and transferring 30 credits from a previous MA to their NSSR degree, should not petition for an MA degree.

Application to the PhD Program
The satisfaction of the continuing MA requirements stipulated above is not a guarantee of admission to the PhD program. Entrance into the PhD program is applied for separately.

Applications can be submitted by internal candidates to the Director of Admissions in the Department of Philosophy in November and February of each year, in time for registration. The SAs will announce specific deadlines at the beginning of each semester. At the time of application, internal candidates must have completed at least 18 credits, taken their MA oral examination, received a minimum of two high passes on their orals/writtens, and have no outstanding coursework, i.e. incompletes. Further, the applying student must have achieved a minimum grade point average of A- (3.7) in their coursework. In addition, the student is required to submit a portfolio containing:
1. an academic record (an unofficial transcript may be requested by the student from the Registrar’s office or printed from their MyNewschool page)
2. a piece of philosophical writing between 18 and 25 pages
3. a short proposal of no more than one page indicating the area of research the student would like to pursue for the dissertation
4. a completed petition to change status from MA to PhD.

The portfolio will be reviewed two members of the Department, and the decision made by the Department as a whole. In order for the student to be accepted to the PhD program, at least one member of the Department faculty must agree in principle to supervise the dissertation project as stated. **If admitted to the PhD program, all continuing MA degree requirements must be completed before students will be allowed to register for more than 36 credits.**

**THE TERMINAL MA DEGREE**
The requirements for the Terminal MA degree are the same as those set forth for the continuing MA with the provision that: 1) a low pass on both sections of the written exam, and 2) a low pass on both sections of the oral exam are sufficient. Students may write and defend a Master’s thesis for the terminal MA in place of the exams (both written and oral), and must receive, at least, a low pass.

**THE MA WITH A CONCENTRATION IN PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDIES**
This concentration provides Philosophy students with an opportunity to focus their coursework in the field of psychoanalytic studies. Although no additional application or paperwork is required, **students must let the Student Advisor know if they intend to pursue the MA with a concentration in Psychoanalytic Studies.** The core of the program consists of four courses and a thesis in the area of psychoanalytic theory. As in the case of the Continuing and Terminal MA degrees in Philosophy, students in this MA concentration must complete 30 credits for graduation. Of these, 24 credits must be earned in Philosophy department courses, or courses determined by the Chair to count as Philosophy credit. A minimum of six credits must be earned in Philosophy seminars. Further, of the 30 credits necessary for graduation, seven courses (21 credits) must satisfy the following distribution requirement:

- four courses in psychoanalytic theory and
- three courses, each satisfying a different one of the following five distribution requirements:
  - Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
  - Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy
  - 18th and 19th Century Philosophy
  - 20th Century Analytic Philosophy
  - 20th Century Continental Philosophy

Students must also fulfill the language requirement, described above. Fulfillment of the continuing and terminal MA logic requirement is not necessary; however, it will be a requirement for eligibility for the MPhil or PhD program, as are the additional distribution requirements stipulated above for the continuing MA. To be eligible to apply to the PhD program, students pursuing the MA concentration in psychoanalysis must fulfill the same requirements as other internal applicants. Namely, candidates must have completed at least 18 credits, taken their MA oral examination, and have no outstanding coursework, i.e. incompletes. In addition, it is necessary that students accepted into the PhD program must receive a high pass on the defense of their thesis, and at least one high pass and one low pass on the MA oral examination in order to continue onto the PhD program. A low pass on the MA thesis in psychoanalytic theory, however, is sufficient for the terminal MA with a concentration in psychoanalysis.

**THE PHD DEGREE**

**Time Limit**
Unless an extension is granted by the Department of Philosophy and the Office of Academic Affairs, all work for the PhD must be completed in 10 years (20 semesters) including the time, if any, that was spent at The New School for Social Research earning an MA. The semester total, however, does not include leaves of absence. For PhD students who fail to continue on toward the PhD or to receive an extension after the 10 year time to degree mark, there is the option to petition for the Masters in Philosophy degree (MPhil). The MPhil is described below (and in the NSSR Catalogue) and may be conferred upon a registered student who has fulfilled all requirements for the PhD but who has not successfully defended a dissertation.

**Course Requirements**
These requirements are pre-candidacy requirements, and incorporate the requirements of the MA, whether as completed at the New School or their transfer equivalent. The student’s degree status upon admission to the program is PHDS (‘S’ for study) until all but the dissertation is completed. The PHDS student must successfully complete graduate courses and seminars equaling at least 60 credits. The 30 credits received for the MA or transferred are
considered part of the 60 credit total. Of the total 60 credits, at least 48 must be in philosophy courses (or in courses approved by the Chair for philosophy credit), and up to 12 elective credits that are not approved for philosophy credit may be taken in other departments (including those taken for the MA). Of the 48 philosophy credits, at least 15 must be in philosophy seminars (including the 6 earned at the MA level). A minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 must be maintained.

All PhD Students must fulfill the following distribution requirements (including MA coursework or their transfer equivalent):

- One course in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
- Two courses in Analytic Philosophy
- One course in each of the following areas:
  - Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy
  - 18th and 19th Century Philosophy
  - 20th Century Continental Philosophy

Registration for coursework at the PhD level must be reviewed by the SA and approved by the PhD Faculty Advisor to ensure distribution requirements.

Additionally, students must take the year-long Dissertation Prospectus Seminar, taught every year by the current PhD Faculty Advisor, as a part of their PhD requirements. This is a non-credit seminar and does not count towards the 5 seminars that must be taken as part of the PhD requirements. Students may only register for the Prospectus Seminar after they have attempted all of their PhD coursework. Exceptions may be made with the Prospectus instructor and Chair’s approval.

Language Requirement
The PHDS student must demonstrate a reading knowledge of two foreign languages (including the language requirement for the MA). If for any reason the student has entered the PhD program without having taken a language exam, two such exams must be taken. Language exams consist of a translation of Greek, Latin, French, German, or, by petition with the Chair, another language relevant to the student’s dissertation. The format of the exam is the same as that of the MA language exam (see above). Ideally, the PhD language requirements should be completed early in the program.

PhD Qualifying Papers
PhD students are required to write two qualifying papers that are evaluated as publishable journal articles by two members of the faculty. By “publishable journal articles” is intended pieces of work that show all the skills of writing, argumentation, organization, and presentation that are found in high quality published articles in the field. The procedures for the qualifying papers are like those for the MA thesis: there is one overall supervisor for both papers, ideally the person the student intends to supervise the dissertation, although this is not necessary. The two essays will be worked up with the guidance of the supervisor, who is further responsible for ensuring that the two essays maintain the principle of breadth of study, as well as articulating these standards for the student. The qualifying papers may grow out of essays submitted for coursework or from an MA thesis written here or elsewhere. The second reader for each paper may be different, and she or he is to be chosen by the student after consultation with the qualifying paper supervisor. The student must pass both qualifying papers before being allowed to take the area exam.

Dissertation
Before writing anything, the candidate should submit for approval a proposed dissertation topic to an appropriate faculty member of the Philosophy department within two semesters of having successfully completed the PhD prospectus seminar. After sufficient research and discussion with the supervisor, the candidate will submit a dissertation proposal to the dissertation supervisor. The proposal should be approximately 10 pages in length. It should be a clear statement of the thesis the student intends to demonstrate in the dissertation, explaining how the dissertation is an addition to our understanding of a particular area of philosophy. Further, it should include a chapter outline and a core bibliography. The dissertation supervisor should advise the student on putting together a committee of readers. The committee (consisting of the dissertation supervisor and two other members of the philosophy faculty) should be matched with the philosophical interests that are most relevant to the student’s area of research. The participation of committee members varies: sometimes faculty members are very involved and other times (at minimum) they may only read the final draft of the dissertation and attend the defense. Since there are no set guidelines concerning the level of involvement the readers have in the student’s research, the student should discuss this expectation with each committee member before asking him or her to serve on the committee.
As soon as the dissertation proposal has been approved by all of the readers, the student should complete a "Dissertation Topic Approval" form by acquiring the signature of all three committee members and the Department Chair. This form is available from the SAs and must be completed prior to scheduling the dissertation defense. When the “Dissertation Topic Approval” form is submitted it will be sent to the Records Office for processing and the department will keep a copy on file.

Each candidate is responsible for obtaining from the Registrar’s Office information regarding the dissertation format, microfilming, copyrighting, and related regulations. The completed dissertation must be submitted to the NSSR Office of Academic Affairs, which has a University Reader evaluate the manuscript for style and format. The candidate must submit a completed dissertation judged by the dissertation committee to be an original contribution to thought and knowledge in philosophy. All dissertations must be of a total length no greater than 80,000 words, inclusive of all marginalia. This policy is applicable to all continuing and incoming doctoral students and candidates.

Dissertation Area Exam
After the candidate has chosen a topic, a supervisor, and formed a committee, the supervisor with the committee will put together a list of key books on and directly adjacent to the proposed dissertation topic. At the end of an agreed upon period of study, the committee will generate a set of questions to be answered in a take-home exam over the course of a given weekend. The dissertation area exam should be thought of as comprising an organic part of the process of writing the dissertation, and intended to help provide structure to the research process.

Defense of the Dissertation
The scheduling of the defense operates like defending an MA thesis: the supervisor must approve the defense and then s/he will contact the SAs to begin the scheduling process. Before a student defends, s/he should ensure that all course requirements, language requirements, and examinations have been completed and noted in the Registrar’s Office, and that the Dissertation Topic Approval Form has been filed. Additionally, students must submit a petition (available with the SA, Registrar’s Office, and Academic Affairs) to change status from PhDS (student) to PhDC (candidate). Students will not be allowed to defend their dissertation unless all requirements have been met. When all of these steps have been completed, the defense date and time will be set up by the SAs, and the student will be notified of the room and the Dean’s Representative (a fourth reader from outside the department). At this time, the "Dissertation Acceptance Statement," prepared by the dissertation supervisor, must also be filed in that office. At the dissertation defense, one member from a department other than philosophy will be present to act as the Dean’s Representative. The Dean’s Representative must be a professor at The New School for Social Research. The SAs in conjunction with Academic Affairs, not the student, will secure this extra committee member. The student must submit copies of the final draft to each reader (including the Dean’s Representative) at least four weeks prior to the oral defense. Please note that failure to submit the final draft of the dissertation to the committee in a timely fashion may result in cancellation of the defense. The defense lasts up to 2 hours. Students should first give a presentation of their dissertation lasting no longer than 12 minutes. Notes can be brought to the defense, yet they cannot be read directly. It is absolutely necessary to follow the guidelines online at http://www.news学校.edu/nssr/subpage.aspx?id=9258.

Granting the PhD Degree
Students must petition for the PhD degree with a form available from the University Registrar’s Office. Degrees are conferred twice each year, in January and in June. See the attached appendix for the fall and spring deadlines as well as information regarding any additional fees (such as dissertation microfilming) that must be submitted along with the petition for the degree. Microfilm agreement forms and a survey of earned doctorates are available from the University Registrar’s Office; they must be completed and returned to the Registrar’s Office. Diplomas will not be released until both forms have been submitted. Students who wish to have their dissertation copyrighted may do so at the time of microfilming by providing the requested information on the microfilm agreement form and enclosing a certified check or money order.

THE MPHIL DEGREE
The MPhil in Philosophy is a terminal degree offered to students who have completed all requirements for the PhD, except the successful defense of a dissertation, prospectus seminar, and dissertation proposal. To this end, all coursework needed to receive a PhD and distribution requirements must necessarily be fulfilled, in addition to all erstwhile PhD examinations. A minimum score of low pass is required on all PhD exams.
TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who have completed previous graduate work (usually an MA in philosophy or its equivalent) should meet with the SAs, regardless of whether the student has been admitted into the MA or PhD program. The student and the SAs will review any past graduate work in an attempt to preliminarily determine from which requirements, if any, the student may be exempt. Final approval is at the discretion of the PhD Faculty Advisor. The evaluation of possible exemptions may have to await the completion of some coursework; that is, an appraisal of the student’s work at The New School for Social Research may need to be done first before a decision regarding the preliminary determination by the Student Advisor and the PhD Faculty Advisor.

In general, a PhD student may petition to transfer up to 30 credits from another university for the student’s MA portion of coursework. PhD students that transfer 30 credits will not receive an MA at The New School for Social Research. Exemption from examinations in specific exam areas or from distribution requirements can be granted where the student demonstrates that s/he has done equivalent work elsewhere or in another form.

Please note that, though a student may be admitted to the PhD program, it may be necessary for certain MA examinations to be fulfilled at The New School for Social Research. Once all MA work is established or fulfilled, the student may then officially petition to change status to PHDS (if s/he is not already in the PhD program). PhD students who have had previous graduate work yet who are receiving an MA degree at The New School for Social Research may transfer in up to 6 credits beyond the 3 credits transferred in toward the MA degree. See the attached appendix for specific policies regarding transfer of credit.

*The policies and procedures published in the Catalogue are binding in case of unintended discrepancies between the Catalogue and this handbook.

**The information published here represents the plans of the New School for Social Research at the time of publication. The division reserves the right to change any matter contained in this publication, including but not limited to policies, degree programs, names of programs, course offerings, academic activities, academic requirements, faculty and administrators.

Revised June 2014
Important Form Locations

*’s denote forms which are available online at the links below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change of Address Form</td>
<td>My.NewSchool.edu (student tab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of Department</td>
<td>Academic Affairs *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of Status</td>
<td>Academic Affairs *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Topic Approval Form</td>
<td>Philosophy Student Advisor’s Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension of Time</td>
<td>Academic Affairs *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Extension of Incomplete</td>
<td>Office of the Registrar; Academic Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Petition</td>
<td>My.NewSchool.edu, or Office of the Registrar*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance Waiver</td>
<td>Online only (see below)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete Extension, Incomplete Request</td>
<td>Academic Affairs *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave of Absence</td>
<td>Academic Affairs *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Incomplete Removal Petition</td>
<td>Academic Affairs *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy Dept. Exam Petitions</td>
<td>Philosophy SAs’ Office (Attachment A of this handbook)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-Enrollment</td>
<td>Academic Affairs *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcript Request Form</td>
<td>My.NewSchool.edu*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of Credits</td>
<td>Academic Affairs *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal from Program</td>
<td>Academic Affairs *</td>
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Quick list of Online Forms:

Change of Department, Change of Status, Extension of Time, Leave of Absence, Re-Enrollment, Withdrawal, and other Academic Petitions:
http://www.newschool.edu/nssr/subpage.aspx?id=9246

Health Insurance Waiver:
http://www.newschool.edu/student-health-services/insurance-waiver-and-deadlines/

Graduation and PhD guidelines:
http://www.newschool.edu/nssr/subpage.aspx?id=9258

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSSR Office of Academic Affairs</th>
<th>Office of the Registrar</th>
<th>Philosophy Student Advisor’s Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 East 16th Street 10th Floor, Room 1007</td>
<td>72 Fifth Ave. Basement</td>
<td>6 East 16th Street 10th Floor, Cubicle 1028E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ATTACHMENT A

SUMMARY OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Summary of Continuing MA Requirements

Courses:  
- 30 credits (10 courses)  
- 2 courses must be seminars (6500 or higher)  
- Up to 2 courses may be elective (taken in other graduate departments)

Distribution:  
- Ancient and Medieval (required)  
- 20th Century Analytic (required)  
- One course in each of two following areas:  
  - Renaissance and Early Modern  
  - 18th and 19th Century  
  - 20th Century Continental

Exams:  
- Language (German, French, Latin, or Ancient Greek) offered once each term  
- Logic (typically offered during spring semester; see p. 6 of handbook for more options)  
- Oral Exams (2 questions from 2 different subject areas)  
- Written Exams or MA thesis (2 questions from areas not covered by oral exams)

Examination Areas:  
1. Ancient and Medieval Philosophy  
2. Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy  
3. 18th and 19th Century Philosophy  
4. 20th Century Continental Philosophy  
5. 20th Century Analytic Philosophy

Language and Logic exams are graded as either pass or fail and can be retaken without limit. They are not reported until they are passed.

Written, Oral Exams, and MA theses are graded fail, low pass, or high pass. Each exam can be retaken once. To be eligible to apply to continue to the PhD, you must pass these exams with a minimum of three high passes and one low pass.

The department requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 for satisfactory progress (though different standards may apply to maintain financial aid awards, etc.). A GPA of 3.7 is required to be eligible to apply to the PhD program.

Summary of PhD Requirements

All distribution and exam requirements for the continuing MA degree must be satisfied (including language and logic). Course credits, seminars, and electives taken at the MA level count toward the totals required for the PhD listed below.

Courses:  
- 60 credits (18 courses), 5 of which must be seminars (6500 or higher)  
- Up to 4 courses may be elective (taken in other graduate departments; including those taken at the MA level)  
- One-year Dissertation Prospectus Seminar (zero credit, does not count for one of the five required seminars, started the year you will finish coursework)  
- Distribution requirements:  
  - One course in Ancient and Medieval  
  - Two courses in Analytic  
  - One course in each of the following:  
    - Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy  
    - 18th and 19th Century Philosophy  
    - 20th Century Continental Philosophy

Two Qualifying Papers (topics must be approved by PhD Faculty Advisor)

Dissertation Area Exam (administered by Dissertation Advisor, in consultation with the
Dissertation Committee)

Dissertation: ● Topic Approval Form to establish committee and approve dissertation topic (within two semesters after completing Prospectus Seminar) ● Write and defend dissertation

Language exams are graded as either pass or fail and can be retaken without limit. They are not reported until they are passed.

The department requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 for satisfactory progress (though different standards may apply to maintain financial aid awards, etc.)
Summary of Terminal MA Requirements

The requirements are the same as the continuing MA with the following two exceptions pertaining to examinations:

- Either write and defend an MA thesis, or take oral and written exams as described above.
- A minimum grade of low pass is required for all exams.

Summary of Requirements for MA with Concentration in Psychoanalysis

Please let the SA know that you intend to pursue this degree track.

It is possible to receive a Terminal MA with a concentration in psychoanalysis, however you must write a thesis as described below. If you plan to continue in the PhD program, you must satisfy all requirements of the continuing MA in addition to those listed below (including course distribution and logic requirements) as part of their PhD requirements.

Courses: Same as Continuing MA requirements above

Distribution:
- 12 credits (4 courses) in psychoanalytic theory
  - three courses, each satisfying a different one of the following five distribution requirements:
    ○ Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
    ○ Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy
    ○ 18th and 19th Century Philosophy
    ○ 20th Century Analytic Philosophy
    ○ 20th Century Continental Philosophy

Exams:
- Same as Continuing MA requirements above with the following two exceptions:
  ○ Logic is not required at the MA level, but must be satisfied for the MPhil or PhD
  ○ An MA thesis involving psychoanalytic theory (satisfying two exam sections as with the thesis described above) must be written and defended with two high passes (unless pursuing a Terminal MA). Written exams are NOT an option for those concentrating in psychoanalysis.

Summary of MPhil Requirements

The requirements are the same as the PhD Requirements above with the following two exceptions:

- A minimum grade of low pass is required for all exams.
- The dissertation prospectus seminar, topic approval, and dissertation defense are not required.