

# BOSTON COLLEGE



GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



# PHILOSOPHY



# GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The department offers a comprehensive program in the history and problems of philosophy, allowing for concentration in the following areas: continental European philosophy from Kant to the present, ancient philosophy, medieval philosophy, social and political philosophy, and philosophy of science. A significant feature of the program is the extensive and diverse range of courses available to graduate students every semester.

Students have considerable flexibility in designing their programs of study, and have access to the resources of political science, theology and other departments of the University, as well as to the rich intellectual resources of the Boston area.

## The Ph.D. Program

Admission to the doctoral program is highly selective—five or six students are admitted each year from among more than 200 applicants. The requirements for the Ph.D. degree are as follows:

- ❖ Sixteen courses (48 credits)
- ❖ Proficiency in logic (tested by course or by examination)
- ❖ Proficiency in two foreign languages (Latin, Greek, French or German)
- ❖ Preliminary comprehensive examination
- ❖ Doctoral comprehensive examination
- ❖ Dissertation and oral defense
- ❖ One year of full-time residence

Students entering the program with an M.A. in philosophy may be given credit for up to 6 courses (18 credits) toward this requirement, but must take a minimum of 10 courses (30 credits) in the program.

The preliminary comprehensive is a one-hour oral examination on a reading list in the history of philosophy, and is taken at the end of the student's first year.

The doctoral comprehensive is a two-hour oral examination on the student's dissertation proposal, a systematic problem, and two major philosophers; it is taken by November of the student's fourth year.

Doctoral students are generally admitted with financial aid in the form of Research Assistantships and Teaching Fellowships, which include remission of tuition for required courses and annual stipends. Doctoral students generally teach after the first year; the program includes a seminar on teaching.

Ph.D. candidates are expected to pursue the degree on a full-time basis and to maintain satisfactory progress toward the completion of degree requirements.

Application requirements include: application forms, all official transcripts from previous institutions, three letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, writing sample, and G.R.E. general exam scores. International applicants must also submit official TOEFL examination scores. The deadline for applying is January 2. Further information about applying and links to the application form are available at [www.bc.edu/gsas](http://www.bc.edu/gsas).

## The M.A. Program

Requirements for the M.A. in Philosophy are as follows:

- ❖ Ten courses (30 credits)
- ❖ Proficiency in one foreign language (Latin, Greek, French or German)
- ❖ One-hour oral comprehensive examination on a reading list in the history of philosophy.

Students may submit a master's thesis in place of two courses. The master's degree may be pursued on a full-time or part-time basis. Departmental financial aid and tuition remission are not normally available for students seeking an M.A.

Application requirements include: application forms, all official transcripts from previous institutions, three letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, writing sample, and G.R.E. general exam scores. International applicants must also submit official TOEFL examination scores. The deadline for applying is January 2. Further information about applying and links to the application form are available at [www.bc.edu/gsas](http://www.bc.edu/gsas).

For descriptions of courses offered in the current academic year and a listing of faculty publications, see the department's webpage at: [www.bc.edu/philosophy](http://www.bc.edu/philosophy).

# FACULTY

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**JAMES BERNAUER, S.J.**

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Ph.D., SUNY at Stony Brook

Foucault and Arendt; Social Philosophy

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**JEFFREY BLOECHL**

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Ph.D., Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven

Contemporary European Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Levinas, Lacan, Philosophy and Psychoanalysis

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**OLIVA BIANCHETTE**

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Ph.D., Université Laval

Metaphysics; Ethics; Philosophy of Religion

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**PATRICK BYRNE**

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Ph.D., SUNY at Stony Brook

Philosophy of Science; Lonergan Studies; Social Ethics; Aristotle

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**JOHN CLEARY**

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Ph.D., Boston University

Ancient Philosophy; Philosophy of Science

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**RICHARD COBB-STEVENS**

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Ph.D., University of Paris

Phenomenology; Contemporary French Philosophy; American Philosophy

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**JOSEPH FLANAGAN, S.J.**

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Ph.D., Fordham University

Aesthetics; Lonergan Studies

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**JORGE GARCIA**

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Ph.D., Yale University

Ethics, Action Theory, African-American Philosophy

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**GARY GURTIER, S.J.**

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Ph.D., Fordham University

Ancient Philosophy; Aesthetics; Metaphysics

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**RICHARD KEARNEY**

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Ph.D., University of Paris, Charles Seelig Professor of Philosophy

Ethics; Contemporary French Philosophy

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**PETER KREEFT**

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Ph.D., Fordham University

Philosophy of Religion; Medieval Philosophy; Philosophy of Literature

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**ARTHUR MADIGAN, S.J.**

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Ph.D., University of Toronto

Ancient Philosophy; Philosophy of God

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**STUART MARTIN**

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Ph.D., Fordham University

Ancient Philosophy; Medieval Philosophy

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**MARINA MCCOY**

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Ph.D., Boston University

Ancient Philosophy, Ethics, Feminism

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**DANIEL MCKAUGHAN**

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Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Science and Religion, Epistemology, Pierce

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**GERARD O'BRIEN, S.J.**

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Ph.D., Fordham University

History of Philosophy; Augustine

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**THOMAS OWENS**

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Ph.D., Fordham University

Heidegger; Phenomenology

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**DAVID RASMUSSEN**

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Ph.D., University of Chicago

Contemporary Continental Philosophy; Social and Political Philosophy; Law and Aesthetics

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**WILLIAM RICHARDSON, S.J., Professor Emeritus**

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Ph.D., University of Louvain

Heidegger; Lacan; Philosophy and Psychoanalysis

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**VANESSA RUMBLE**

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Ph.D., Emory University

Kierkegaard; History of Philosophy

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**JOHN SALLIS**

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Ph.D., Tulane, Frederick J. Adelman, S.J. Professor of Philosophy

19th Century German Philosophy, Contemporary Continental Philosophy, Aesthetics, Greek Philosophy

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**JEAN-IUC SOLÈRE**

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Ph.D., Poitiers

Early Modern Philosophy; Medieval Philosophy; History of Philosophy

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**FRANCIS SOO**

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Ph.D., Boston College

Eastern Philosophy; Chinese Philosophy; Social Philosophy

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**EILEEN SWEENEY**

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Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin

Medieval Philosophy; Philosophy of Language; Philosophy and Literature

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**RONALD TACELLI, S.J.**

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Ph.D., University of Toronto

Ancient Philosophy; Analytic Philosophy; Kant

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**JACQUES TAMINIAUX, Professor Emeritus**

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Ph.D., University of Louvain

Nietzsche; Contemporary Continental Philosophy; Political Philosophy

Graduate students in philosophy also have access to courses and faculty members in other departments of Boston College. Faculty in other departments often serve as advisors, examiners, and supervisors for graduate students in philosophy.

# RESOURCES

## Financial Aid for Research and Study

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has made available year-long Dissertation Fellowships. These grants are intended to help students bring their dissertations to successful conclusion. They are awarded by the Graduate School upon department recommendation.

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) assists both faculty and graduate students in finding sources of external funding for their projects and provides advice in the development of proposals. OSP maintains a reference library of publications from both public and private sectors listing funding sources for sponsored projects.

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences grants partial tuition remission to graduate students taking intensive summer language programs in Latin, French and German in the Boston College Summer Session. Currently 12-week, six-credit courses are available to graduate students for the cost of one semester hour.

## Institutes and Colloquia

Department faculty are active in a number of institutes and colloquia both at Boston College and in conjunction with faculty at other Boston-area universities.

THE LONERGAN CENTER, located in Bapst Library, is a focus for studies related to the work of Jesuit theologian and philosopher Bernard Lonergan (1904-1984). The center houses a growing collection of Lonergan's published and unpublished writings as well as secondary materials and reference works. In recent years, some financial aid has been available to assist graduate students specializing in the thought of Bernard Lonergan.

The Philosophy Department is linked to Boston College's INSTITUTE OF MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY. The institute, a center of teaching and research for faculty members in the Philosophy and Theology departments, focuses on the relationship between medieval philosophy and theology and modern continental philosophy and theology.

To foster this dialogue and to encourage the scholarly retrieval of the great medieval intellectual tradition, the institute offers fellowships and assistantships to doctoral students studying medieval philosophy and theology within one of these departments.

The institute sponsors a speaker series, a faculty-student seminar to investigate new areas of medieval philosophical and theological research, and a research center to assist in the publication of monographs and articles in the diverse areas of medieval philosophy and theology. The research center also encourages the translation of medieval sources and the editing of philosophical and theological texts.

THE GREATER BOSTON AREA COLLOQUIUM IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY (BACAP) is a consortium of colleges and universities in Boston, Cambridge, Providence and Worcester, sponsoring seminars and lectures in the field of ancient philosophy.

THE BOSTON COLLOQUIUM IN MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY, sponsored by Boston College's Institute of Medieval Philosophy and Theology, holds seminars and lectures in medieval philosophy, theology and related fields.

## University Exchange Programs

Graduate philosophy students at Boston College are able to take courses for credit in the graduate programs in philosophy at Boston University, Brandeis and Tufts.

Doctoral students who have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. except the dissertation are eligible to apply to be Junior Fellows at the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, Vienna, Austria. Boston College also has links with the University of Paris IV, with the École Normale Supérieure, and with the Katholische Universität Eichstätt.

The Boston Library Consortium gives students at Boston College library privileges at Boston Public Library, Boston University, Brandeis, MIT, Northeastern, the State Library of Massachusetts, Tufts, University of Massachusetts and Wellesley College.

## Journals

Faculty members edit a number of important journals *Études Phénoménologiques*, edited by Professor Jacques Taminiaux; *Loneragan Workshop*, edited by Professor of Theology Frederick Lawrence; *Method: Journal of Loneragan Studies*, edited by Professor Patrick Byrne; *Philosophy and Social Criticism* (formerly *Cultural Hermeneutics*), edited by Professor David Rasmussen; *Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy*, edited by Professors John Cleary and Gary Gurtler, S.J.; *Research in Phenomenology*, edited by Professor John Sallis, and *Society and Thought*, edited by Professor Frank Soo.

## Technology Resources

The department and university have made a commitment to making computer technology current and available to all students. Teaching Fellows have computers in their cubicles. Other graduate students have access to computers in the department and in the O'Neill Computing Center (where both Macintosh and IBM computers are available). Laser printing is available at either site. In addition, graduate students with home computers and a modem have access to InfoEagle, the Boston College computer network, which includes connections to the Internet and BC's e-mail system.

## Student Organizations

A number of M.A. and Ph.D. students have joined to form the Philosophy Forum. This group sponsors sessions for the reading of papers, social events and other activities of interest to graduate students. Members of this group have assembled a helpful orientation packet with information about the practical side of graduate student life. See the department's webpage at: <http://www.bc.edu/philosophy>.

# SELECTED COURSES

Philosophy of Law, David M. Rasmussen

Modern Philosophies of Self, Richard M. Kearney

Modern Philosophies of Imagination, Richard M. Kearney

Plato and the Sophists, Marina McCoy

Metaphysics, Gary M. Gurtler, S.J.

Philosophy of Action, Oliva Blanchette

Philosophy of Poetry and Music, Joseph F. Flanagan, S.J.

Two Existentialisms: Satre and Marcel, Peter J. Kreeft

Philosophy of Science, Patrick H. Byrne

Kant's Critique, Ronald K. Tacelli, S.J.

Social Construction and Social Reality, Jorge Garcia

The Problem of Self-Knowledge, Joseph F. Flanagan, S.J.

Philosophy of Being I, Oliva Blanchette

Philosophy of Being II, Oliva Blanchette

Passions, Pleasures and Happiness in Modern Philosophy, Jean-Luc Solère

Platonic Theories of Knowledge, Gary M. Gurtler, S.J.

Philosophy of Otherness: Aliens, Gods, and Monsters, Richard M. Kearney

Foucault and Beyond, James W. Bernauer, S.J.

Beyond Aristotle's Physics, John Cleary

St. Thomas Aquinas, Eileen C. Sweeney

Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit, Oliva Blanchette

Insight, Patrick H. Byrne

Virtues and Norms, Jorge Garcia

Reasonableness and Normativity, David M. Rasmussen

Phenomenology of God, Richard M. Kearney

Philosophy and Theology in Aquinas, Oliva Blanchette

Seminar: Heidegger I, Thomas J. Owens

Seminar: Heidegger II, Thomas J. Owens

Husserl's Logical Investigations, Richard Cobb-Stevens

Husserl's Later Work, Richard Cobb-Stevens

Teaching Seminar, Richard Cobb-Stevens

Philosophy and Painting, John Sallis

German Idealism, John Sallis

Philosophy of Biology, Daniel McKaughan

Soren Kierkegaard, Vanessa Rumble

German Romanticism, Vanessa Rumble

Global Justice and Human Rights, David Rasmussen

Advanced Medieval Philosophy, Jean-Luc Solere

Hegel/ Phenomenology/ Spirit, Oliva Blanchette

Derrida: Early and Late, Jeffrey Bloechl

Aristotle/ Plotinus/ Soul, Gary Gurtler, S.J.

Levinas, Jeffrey Bloechl

Theories of Metaphor, Eileen Sweeney

Philosophy of Language, Eileen Sweeney

Spinoza's Ethics, Jean-Luc Solere

Ontology and Subjectivity, Jean-Luc Solere

# M.A. READING LIST

## I. Ancient Philosophy

### 1. REQUIRED READINGS FOR ALL:

- ❖ Plato, *Republic* and one of the following:
  1. *Theaetetus*, *Meno*
  2. *Sophist*, *Phaedrus*
- ❖ Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* and one of the following:
  1. *Metaphysics*, Books I, 7; *Physics* 2, 3, chs. 1-3
  2. *De Anima*, Book 3; *Poetics*
- ❖ Plotinus, *Ennead* 1. 6[1], On Beauty; *Ennead* 3. 7[45], On Time

### 2. CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ❖ Parmenides, *Proem*, *Way of Truth*, *Way of Opinion*
- ❖ Heraclitus, *Peri Physcos*
- ❖ Cicero, *On Friendship*
- ❖ Seneca, *On Philosophy and Friendship* (Epistle 9); *On Grief for Lost Friends* (Epistle 63)

## II. Medieval Philosophy

### 1. REQUIRED READINGS FOR ALL:

- ❖ Augustine, *Confessions* 1-11; *De Trinitate* 10-11
- ❖ Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*
- ❖ Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*
  - Part I, qq. 1-3 (nature of sacred science, existence and simplicity of God);
  - Part I, qq. 75, 76, 79, 84, 85 (union of body and soul; intellectual powers; mode and order of understanding);
  - Part I-II, qq. 90-92, 94-95 (treatise on law)

### 2. CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ❖ Abelard, *Ethics*
- ❖ Anselm, *Proslogion*
- ❖ Maimonides, *Guide for the Perplexed* (selections in Hackett edition)
- ❖ Averroes, *Incoherence of Incoherence*
- ❖ Avicenna, *Remarks and Admonitions*
- ❖ Bonaventure, *Journey of the Mind to God*
- ❖ Scotus, *Philosophical Writings*
- ❖ Ockham, *Philosophical Writings*
- ❖ Cusa, *Learned Ignorance*

## III. Modern Philosophy

### 1. REQUIRED READINGS FOR ALL:

- ❖ Descartes, *Meditations*
- ❖ Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Prefaces, Introduction, Transcendental Aesthetic, Transcendental Logic, Transcendental Analytic, Books I-II; *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*

### 2. CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ❖ Spinoza, *Ethics*, *Theological-Political Treatise* (chs. 1-7, 14-20)
- ❖ Leibniz, *Theodicy*
- ❖ Leibniz, *New Essays on Human Understanding*, Books 1, 2, 4
- ❖ Bayle, *Historical and Critical Dictionary* (selections by R. Popkin)
- ❖ Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, Bk. I, Parts I and III
- ❖ Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Introduction, Part I, ch. I, II, X, XI, XIII, XIV, Part II, ch. XVII-XIX
- ❖ Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (Books 1 and 2)
- ❖ Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*

## IV. 19th and 20th Century Philosophy

Choose two authors, one each from two of the four categories.

### 1. 19TH CENTURY AND AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY

- ❖ Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Introduction, A. Consciousness, B. Self-Consciousness; *The Philosophy of Right*, Introduction, Part III
- ❖ Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*, *Philosophical Fragments*
- ❖ Marx, *Paris Manuscripts*, *German Ideology* I, *Capital* I Book I, Parts I-III
- ❖ Mill, *On Liberty*; *Utilitarianism*
- ❖ Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*, *Birth of Tragedy*
- ❖ James, *Pragmatism*, *The Will to Believe*, ch. 1, 2, 3; *Principles of Psychology*, chs. 9, 10, 15.
- ❖ Peirce, "The Fixation of Belief," "The Essentials of Pragmatism," "Evolutionary Love"
- ❖ Dewey, *Experience and Nature*, *Art and Experience*

### 2. 20TH CENTURY ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY

- ❖ Austin, *How To Do Things with Words*; *Sense and Sensibilia*
- ❖ Davidson, *Truth and Interpretation*
- ❖ Frege, *The Foundations of Arithmetic*; *Collected Papers on Mathematics, Logic, and Philosophy*, "Function and Concept," "On Sense and Meaning," "Concept and Object"
- ❖ Quine, *Word and Object*, *From a Logical Point of View*
- ❖ Russell, *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism*, *The Problems of Philosophy*
- ❖ Ryle, *Concept of Mind*, *Dilemmas*
- ❖ Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*

### 3. 20TH CENTURY CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

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- ❖ Adorno and Horkheimer, *Dialectic of the Enlightenment*
- ❖ Arendt, *The Human Condition*
- ❖ De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
- ❖ Derrida, *Speech and Phenomena*, *Writing and Difference*
- ❖ Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*
- ❖ Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, vols. 1 and 2
- ❖ Gadamer, *Truth and Method*
- ❖ Habermas, *Theory of Communicative Actions*, vol. 1, chs. 1-4; *Between Facts and Norms*, chs. 1,3,5, and 9
- ❖ Heidegger, *Being and Time* (Intro., Part I, Division I), *Letter on Humanism*
- ❖ Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations*, *Logical Investigations* 1, 2, 6
- ❖ Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*
- ❖ Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*
- ❖ Ricoeur, *Time and Narrative*, vol. 3, section 2; *From Text to Action*
- ❖ Sartre, *Being and Nothingness*, Parts I, III, *Existentialism is a Humanism*

### 4. OTHER 20TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY

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- ❖ Blondel, *Action*
- ❖ Gilson, *Being and Some Philosophers*, *The Unity of Philosophical Experience*
- ❖ Hacking, *Representing and Intervening: Introductory Topics in the Philosophy of Natural Science*
- ❖ Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* and Lakatos and Musgrave, *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, pp. 1-25; 51-59; 59-76; 91-137; 197-229
- ❖ Lonergan, *Insight*
- ❖ MacIntyre, *After Virtue*, *Three Rival Versions of Moral Enquiry*
- ❖ Maritain, *The Person and the Common Good*
- ❖ Popper, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, ch. I-VIII, X; *Conjectures and Refutations*, "Science: Conjectures and Refutations"
- ❖ Rahner, *Spirit in the World*
- ❖ Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, Part I, chs. 1-3; *Political Liberalism*, chs. 2, 6-8
- ❖ Taylor, *Sources of the Self*
- ❖ Whitehead, *Process and Reality*

Distinction: outstanding in at least 3 of the 4 areas and competence in the other.

Pass: competence in *all* 4 areas.

Fail: lack of competence in any *one* of the 4 areas.







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