PHILOSOPHY AND LINGUISTICS
COURSE 24

DESCRIPTION
Philosophy majors examine basic questions about such topics as the nature of existence and knowledge. They also study the history of philosophy, learn how to use logic and argue their ideas, and use philosophy to better understand other fields. Linguistics deals with the structure of language (including syntax, phonetics, and grammar), the relationships between languages, and the way languages change over time.

SKILLS
Strong interpersonal and communication skills
Ability to conduct research
Interpret and write technical papers

POSSIBLE FUTURE POSITIONS
- **Editorial assistant:** The position of editorial assistant is both an editorial and an administrative position. For instance, editorial assistants oversee freelance writers to make sure that they'll be able to submit the commissioned articles on time. Occasionally, they are also asked to write articles and do basic proofreading on commissioned articles before submitting them to the editor.
- **Paralegal:** One of the most important roles of a paralegal is to assist their attorney in preparing for trials, hearings, and closings. A large part of this consists of conducting legal research and gathering relevant information to the case. A large part of a paralegal’s day is spent drafting legal documents. This can include drafting correspondence and pleadings, such as complaints, subpoenas, interrogatories, deposition notices, pretrial orders, and legal briefs with various parties.
- **Public policy analyst:** Policy analysts work by trying to change, adjust, or implement new public policies, regulations, and laws. They often work either directly in government or for non-government organizations which extensively lobby for policy adjustments. Even some for-profit companies use policy analysts to help steer regulation and political action in favorable ways.

CAREER INDUSTRY EXAMPLES
Education  Law  Management
Publishing  Marketing  Government
Research  Medical

SAMPLE EMPLOYERS
Amazon.com  Mission Essentials  Universities
Dropbox  F.B.I.  K&L Gates
INSIDE COURSE 24

24-1 Philosophy
24-2 Linguistics and Philosophy

Undergraduates: 5
Undergraduates: 4

DEPARTMENT FAVORITES

24.9000 How Language Works
Introduces the field of linguistics as the scientific study of the human capacity for language, and its interaction with other cognitive systems. Examines specific phenomena that reveal the general laws and principles that govern the structure of all human languages, as well as the ways in which languages do differ. Topics include language acquisition and use, language change, dialects, and language technologies, with a special focus on collection and analysis of linguistic data.

24.917 ConLangs: How to Construct a Language
Explores languages that have been deliberately constructed (ConLangs), including Esperanto, Klingon, and Tolkien's Elvish. Students construct their own languages while considering phenomena from a variety of languages of the world. Topics include writing systems, phonology (basic units of speech and how they combine), morphology (structure of words), syntax (how words are put together), and semantics (the expression of meaning, and what language leaves unexpressed).

24.02 Moral Problems and the Good Life
Introduction to important philosophical debates about moral issues and what constitutes a good life: What is right, what is wrong, and why? How important are personal happiness, longevity, and success if one is to live a good life? When is it good for you to get what you want? To what extent are we morally obliged to respect the rights and needs of others? What do we owe the poor, the discriminated, our loved ones, animals and fetuses?

COURSE 24-FRIENDLY LABS AND READING GROUPS

Experimental Syntax and Semantics Lab MorPhun
Fieldwork Reading Group Syntax-Semantics Reading Group
MIT Language Acquisition Lab Syntax Square
Phonology Circle The Linguistics and Philosophy Reading Group

GET INVOLVED WITH COURSE 24

MIT Philosophy Club
Science for the People

Sources: MIT Global Education & Career Development, Graduating Student Survey 2015 - 2017. Collegeboard.org. University of Minnesota Center for Academic Planning. UPOP is here to help you! Come talk to us in 1-123 or email us at upopstudentprogram@mit.edu