History of Philosophies, East and West (HPEW)

Chairpersons of the Participating Departments

Agnes Weiyun He, Department of Asian & Asian American Studies, Humanities 1116 (631) 632-7590
Mary Rawlinson, Department of Philosophy, Harriman Hall (631) 632-4098

HPEW Program Director

Jeffrey Edwards, Department of Philosophy, Harriman Hall 246 (631) 632-7570 jeff.edwards@stonybrook.edu

Graduate Secretary

Kathleen-Anna Amella, Harriman Hall 216 (631) 632-7580

Degree Awarded

MA in History of Philosophies, East and West

Website

www.stonybrook.edu/hpew

History of Philosophies, East and West (HPEW)

The HPEW curriculum includes courses on Islamic philosophy, Buddhist philosophy, Chinese philosophy, Japanese philosophy, Hindu philosophy, ancient Greek philosophy, as well as medieval and modern western philosophy. The systematic areas covered from historical perspectives are ethics, political philosophy, metaphysics, cosmology, psychology, aesthetics, theology and theories of knowledge. The program’s courses and seminars on eastern thought include treatments of its western interpretations, and vice versa. Teaching is based on primary texts, with selective use of secondary sources. Special emphasis is put on the understanding of native terms and concepts from the original languages of the works read. (Languages may include German, French, Italian, Greek, Latin, Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit, Pali, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. Achieving reading competency in one or more of these languages is strongly encouraged.) This program is one of the few in the western world allowing students to earn a philosophy graduate degree while pursuing coursework in both eastern and western thought. Because of its distinctive character, it aims to attract students with a comparative perspective who wish to deepen their understanding of the history of philosophy under the guidance of internationally renowned scholars of modern, medieval, and classical philosophical traditions.

Program Administration and Advising

The administration of this joint MA program is carried out by HPEW’s program director in consultation with the Graduate Program Committee (GPC). The GPC consists of HPEW core faculty (see below) and one graduate student representative. Academic advising is carried out primarily by the core faculty, who also meet regularly to evaluate all individual students’ progress toward graduation.

Students must fulfill most degree requirements by taking HPEW’s regularly scheduled graduate courses and seminars. Any student who takes the MA thesis option (6 credits) will request the formation of a faculty committee for the thesis project. This committee consists of the thesis advisor and one other faculty member.

Admission:-

- At the program level, decisions on admission are made by the faculty members of the HPEW Graduate Program Committee. Admission requirements are as follows:
  - Bachelor’s degree (Some knowledge of the history of philosophies, East and/or West, is highly desirable but not required.)
  - Two official transcripts of undergraduate record and of any work completed at the graduate level
  - Letters of recommendation from three previous or current instructors
  - Writing sample (This may be a paper written for a previous course.)
  - Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores*
  - TOEFL scores for applicants whose native languages are not English**
  - Acceptance by HPEW and the Graduate School

* HPEW’s Graduate Program Committee may request that the GRE requirement be waived for qualified applicants.
**HPEW adheres to Graduate School standards setting the acceptable score on the TOEFL test for international students at 550 and above, or a minimum score on the Internet-based TOEFL (IBT) of 90 with a minimum score on each subsection of 22 respectively.

Application dossiers, including cover letter, recommendations and writing sample, should be submitted electronically through the Graduate School’s admissions website. Official transcripts should be sent to: HPEW Program Director, Department of Philosophy, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York, 11794.

Financial support
At this point in time, no financial support in the form of fellowship funding or tuition scholarships is available. It should be noted, however, that tuition and fees (set by the State University of New York) may be quite considerably below those of comparable MA programs. For current tuition and fee schedules, please consult the Stony Brook University website.

Facilities of Computer Science Department

The Computer Science Department is composed of a number of special interest labs (Visualization, Experimental Systems, Logic Modeling, Security Systems, File systems, Human Interface with Computers, Wireless Networking and Multimedia) connected by a multi-gigabyte backbone. Typical systems are PCs running FreeBSD, Linux, MS Windows, and Sun Sparc systems. There are numerous multiprocessor/large memory systems including a graphics cluster of Linux and MS Windows PC’s. General access labs provide Unix and MS Windows systems, and each office desktop is equipped with a workstation. The department maintains its own dial-up service and wireless network. The Stony Brook campus is connected to the Internet via multiple OC3 connections.

Requirements for the M.S. Degree in Computer Science

The 30-credit HPEW curriculum can be completed in one year. But it is recommended that full-time students complete the HPEW program as follows:

- Year one: 24 credits (four 3-credit courses per semester)
- Year two: (two 3-credit courses in the semester of full-time enrollment)

It is also possible to enroll in HPEW on a part-time basis (i.e., by taking fewer than 12 credit hours per semester).

Program Requirements

Students will choose a concentration in either eastern or western philosophy. The relevant distribution requirements are these:

- 6 credits earned in the program’s foundational survey courses on eastern philosophy
- 6 credits earned in the program’s foundational survey courses on western philosophy
- 3 credits earned in a seminar outside the declared concentration (in eastern or in western philosophy)
- EITHER 9 credits earned in seminars in the declared concentration plus 6 credits of thesis research OR, if the MA thesis option is not chosen, 15 credits in the declared concentration, 6 of which may be earned in a graduate-level language course relevant to the chosen concentration.

HPEW Core Faculty


Associated Faculty

Alan Kim, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy. Ph.D., 2001, McGill University. German and ancient Greek philosophy; phenomenology; neo-Kantianism; Plato. [http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/philosophy/people/faculty_pages/kim.html](http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/philosophy/people/faculty_pages/kim.html)


Andrew Platt, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy. Ph.D., 2010, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. History of 17th and 18th century philosophy; social-political philosophy; philosophy of religion. [http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/philosophy/people/faculty_pages/platt.html](http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/philosophy/people/faculty_pages/platt.html)

NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.