

History and Philosophy of Science Major

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The study of the history and philosophy of science affords a broad appreciation of science, its nature and fundamentals, its origins and its place in modern politics, culture, and society. In the history of science, traditional historical methods are used to develop an understanding of how the sciences originated, how they were practiced, how they developed, and how they are related to their intellectual and social contexts. In philosophy of science, the sciences themselves are brought under philosophical scrutiny. We investigate the nature of science in general; what distinguishes scientific activity; how theories explain; how they are confirmed; whether they should be read literally; and the moral dilemmas raised by the sciences. We also investigate the fundamental in its field. Historians worldwide come to Pitt for study and research. The undergraduate courses reflect the

Both of the following

HPS 1653 Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Science
HPS 1702 Junior/Senior Seminar
* The Logic requirement must be completed in HPS 1653.

HPS electives

Students must complete four HPS electives. All HPS electives must be at the 1000-level. At least one must be a history of science course.

Grade requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.0 in courses that count to the major is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option

Natural and/or Social Sciences

Students are required to complete two courses in natural sciences, social sciences, or mathematics. Majors must pursue at least one (non-introductory) level. Students may choose these courses in conjunction with other requirements.

Checklist for the History and Philosophy of Science major

Required Courses

_____ HPS 0611 or PHIL 0500

_____ HPS 1653

_____ HPS 1702

HPS Elective Courses

_____ HPS _____

_____ HPS _____

_____ HPS _____

_____ HPS 1_____ (1000-level course)

Natural and/or Social Science Electives *

_____ (non-intro course)

* ~~Note~~