

# Philosophy

## Information Access Policy

Clemson University Libraries

Philosophy Librarian: [P. Draper](#)

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Philosophy is the quest for understanding of the world, including man's place in it. With such a broad goal, it relates to every other field of knowledge and there are many domains of philosophical thinking. Some of the major questions that philosophy addresses are: What is the nature of reality? How do we come to know the world around us, and to what extent is our knowledge of it valid? What are the differences between right and wrong, between good and evil? The undergraduate philosophy program is designed to help students acquire knowledge of the basic concepts of philosophical thought, learn about the history of philosophy, and study several specialized topics in depth.

Clemson University offers a B.A. in Philosophy. Students can pursue a traditional philosophy major, a philosophy major with a religious studies emphasis area, or a philosophy major with a law, liberty, and justice emphasis area.

### **I. Purpose:**

To support information, teaching, and research needs through the bachelor's level in philosophy and to support the activities of the [Rutland Center for Ethics](#).

#### **Primary Users:**

- o philosophy majors and minors
- o philosophy [faculty](#)

#### **Secondary Users:**

- o students taking philosophy courses as electives
- o students or faculty involved in other courses requiring information about philosophy
- o students, faculty, or staff involved in Rutland Center activities
- o students, faculty, staff, or community members seeking information about philosophy

[Major Requirements](#) (scroll to Philosophy; includes the traditional major as well as the major with special emphasis areas)

[Minor Requirements](#) (scroll to Philosophy)

[Courses offered in Philosophy](#) (scroll to Philosophy)

## II. General Collection Guidelines:

### A. Languages:

English is the primary language of collection, with exceptions where appropriate.

### B. Chronological Guidelines:

Materials will be purchased on philosophy of all time periods, from the ancient world to the present.

### C. Geographical Guidelines:

Materials will be purchased on philosophy of all parts of the world, with greater emphasis on the philosophy of Western Europe and North America.

### D. Types of Material:

- **Books** (including but not limited to dictionaries, encyclopedias, and bibliographies)
- **Journals**
- **Subject indexes:** Both electronic (*Philosopher's Index, Religion Index, Expanded Academic, Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Current Contents, Lexis-Nexis,* etc.) and print (*Humanities Index*).
- **DVDs and Videos** are collected where appropriate.
- **Excluded Materials:** Non-academic or popular (for example, Shirley MacLaine metaphysics, faddish "pop" philosophy) books will not be collected.
- **Textbooks:** Books which are used as textbooks in Clemson classes will not be purchased solely for that reason, but use as a textbook will not exclude the purchase of a useful books.

### E. Date of Publication:

Generally, books published in the last three to five years will be selected, with exceptions where appropriate.

### F. Other General Considerations:

Because of the broad range of subjects that a student of Philosophy may find relevant, acquisition policy for materials covered by many [information access policies](#) may also be of interest.

### III. Primary Subject Classifications, LC Call Numbers, and Collecting Levels

Subject	LC Class	Collecting Level
General Philosophy	B	undergraduate
Logic	BC	undergraduate
Speculative Philosophy	BD	undergraduate
Aesthetics	BH	undergraduate
Ethics	BJ	undergraduate

### IV. Access to Information Not On-Site

**Interlibrary Loan** is the primary means of access to books and journals not owned or accessible by the Library. This service is available free to Clemson University students, faculty, and staff.

### V. Selection Tools

- faculty requests and recommendations
- review sources, e.g. *Choice*, *Philosophical Books*
- approval books and slips from YBP ensure receipt of and notification about titles that fit the needs of the library's collection. The approval plan is reviewed yearly to ensure coverage of appropriate materials.
- publishers' catalogs
- vendor's databases (GOBI)
- indexes, bibliographies, and series lists
- [faculty](#) teaching and research interests
- *Books for College Libraries*
- circulation activity

### VI. Deselection (Weeding) Guidelines

Books will be weeded from the collection if they are in such bad condition that they cannot be repaired (a replacement copy will be purchased if available for important titles). Duplicate copies of books which have not circulated will also be candidates for weeding.

## **VII. Evaluation, Assessment, and Planning Tools**

A. Circulation statistics

B. *Books for College Libraries, Magazines for Libraries*

C. bibliographic and series lists

D. benchmarking projects

(Clemson University's benchmark institutions are Auburn, Georgia Tech, Iowa State, Michigan State, North Carolina State, Purdue, Texas A&M, the University of California at Davis, and Virginia Tech.)

E. Interlibrary Loan activity