

Curriculum for Online Process Philosophy Focus

Online MA in Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness—36 Units

I. Foundational Courses (required for all students)—6 units

Intensives—0 units

(required at start of two Fall semesters)

Introduction to PCC—3 units

(required in 1st semester)

Integrative Seminar—3 units

(online except for the weekend at the end of final Spring semester, when online cohort joins residential students for Seminar presentations the Friday before commencement weekend)

II. Electives—15 units

III. Process Philosophy Focus—15 units

A. Historical Context—3-6 units

Philosophies of Becoming 1: Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Process Philosophers—3 units

(e.g., Taoism, Buddhism; Heraclitus, Plato, Aristotle; Plotinus, Pseudo-Dionysius, Eriugina, Bruno, Cusa, Spinoza, Leibniz)

Philosophies of Becoming 2: Modern and Postmodern Process Philosophers—3 units

(e.g., German Idealism [Herder, Goethe, Fichte, Schelling, Hegel], Peirce, James, Bergson, Aurobindo, Teilhard, Deleuze, Hartshorne, Cobb, Griffin; Morin...)

B. Whitehead's Thought (primary and secondary sources)—3-6 units

Whitehead's Adventure in Cosmology: Toward a Physics of the World-Soul—3 units

This course explores the relevance of Alfred North Whitehead's philosophy of organism to contemporary scientific cosmology. Beginning with key historical influences, including Schelling's *Naturphilosophie* and Bergson's *Creative Evolution*, the course then examines the reasons Whitehead was compelled to articulate a more adequate epistemological and metaphysical background for natural science following the collapse of the Newtonian paradigm in the early 20th century. Students will be introduced to the way Whitehead's mature cosmological scheme integrates the findings of relativity, quantum, evolutionary, and complexity theories.

Advanced Seminar: *Process & Reality*—3 units

A seminar-style course focused on Whitehead's magnum opus, *Process and Reality: An Essay in Cosmology*.

C. Applications —3-9 units

Evolutionary Cosmology and Process Philosophy—3 units

This course draws connections between Brian Swimme's evolutionary cosmology, as depicted in "Journey of the Universe," and process philosophy.

Process and Difference in the Pluriverse—3 units

This course aims to address the challenge of thinking and acting with creativity and compassion in an increasingly complex and pluralistic set of social and ecological contexts. It draws upon an array of diverse process, post-structuralist, and pragmatist thinkers, including William James, WEB DuBois, Gilles Deleuze, Michel Weber, William Connolly, Catherine Keller, Isabelle Stengers, Bruno Latour, and Donna Haraway. The ideas and methods of these thinkers provide a means of reimagining classical liberal constructs (like atomistic individualism) by offering a more relational form of identity and a more receptive way of encountering difference (whether based in race, class, gender, religion, or political ideology).

Process and Ecology—3 units

Building on the Process-related scholarship emerging from the 2015 Ecological Civilization Conference, as well as other resources, this course would explore the important applications of Process Philosophy to re-imagining human-earth relations.

Process Approaches to Consciousness—3 units

Building on the work of Michel Weber and Andreas Weekes in *Process Approaches to Consciousness in Psychology, Neuroscience, and Philosophy of Mind* (2009), this course unpacks the implications of process-relational philosophy for consciousness studies, psychology, and neuroscience. Contemporary consciousness studies and its related fields have run up against what philosopher David Chalmers has called the "hard problem" of consciousness. This course offers a way around the so-called "hard problem" by examining the alternative ontological and cosmological perspectives offered by Alfred North Whitehead, William James, and other process thinkers. These alternative approaches reject mind/matter dualism by arguing for the intrinsically experiential nature of all physical processes, thereby providing a novel way forward for consciousness studies.

Archetypal Process: Process Philosophy and Archetypal Cosmology—3 units

This course situates the philosophical and metaphysical foundations of Archetypal Cosmology in a process-relational ontology, showing how the re-enchanted cosmology articulated by Whitehead and other process thinkers helps support the archetypal perspective, as articulated by Jung, Hillman, Grof, and Tarnas.