



**philosophy graduate  
information guide**

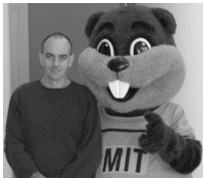
**05 | 06**

**Sylvain Bromberger**, Professor Emeritus



Sylvain Bromberger works in two areas: the philosophy of linguistics, and what he calls the "theory of ignorance." His research in the philosophy of linguistics, carried out in part with Professor Morris Halle of the linguistics section, includes research on the foundations of phonology and of morphology (see e.g. "Why Phonology is Different," *Linguistic Inquiry*, 20 or "The Ontology of Phonology" reprinted in *Essays On What We Know We Don't Know*). He is thus interested in the philosophy of science as it applies to aspects of the study of language that philosophers have tended to neglect. His work on "the theory of ignorance" focuses on the selection of questions in rational inquiry. What values and what constraints bear on such selections? This has led him to work on the nature of explanation, of theory, of natural kinds, etc. *Essays On What We Know We Don't Know*, a collection of some of his papers on these matters, was published jointly by the University of Chicago Press and CSLI at Stanford (1992).

**Alex Byrne**, Associate Professor



Alex Byrne did his graduate work at Princeton before arriving at MIT in 1994 via a postdoc at Caltech. His main interests are philosophy of mind (especially perception and consciousness), metaphysics (especially color), and philosophy of language. He also dabbles in other areas, including epistemology, metaethics, and Wittgenstein.

Topics of Alex's recent papers include the representationalism debate, the knowledge argument, scepticism, nonconceptual content, and two-dimensional semantics. He has written a number of papers on color with David Hilbert of the University of Illinois at Chicago; they also edited the two-volume collection *Readings on Color* for MIT Press. Their paper "Color Realism and Color Science" appeared in *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* in 2003.

**Richard Cartwright**, Professor Emeritus



Richard Cartwright's teaching and research interests are in the history of philosophy, metaphysics, and the philosophy of logic. Although his published works fall mainly into the latter two areas and his philosophical concerns continue to be centered in them, he has increasingly found studies of works of the past a useful vehicle for philosophical understanding. His work during the past couple of years has concentrated on analysis of fundamental metaphysical concepts substance, attribute, essence, set, identity, contingency, persistence, for example; for this purpose he has studied and lectured on the metaphysical writings of Aristotle, Aquinas, and Leibniz. He has, in addition, a longstanding interest in the work in philosophical logic, philosophy of language, and metaphysics of Frege, Russell, and the early Wittgenstein.

**Joshua Cohen**, Professor



Professor Joshua Cohen is a political theorist, trained in philosophy, with a special interest in issues that lie at the intersection of democratic norms and institutions. He has written extensively on issues of democratic theory, particularly on the theory of deliberative democracy, and the implications of that idea for issues of personal liberty, freedom of expression, electoral finance, and new forms of associative and direct-democratic participation. He is currently working on issues of global justice, including the foundations of human rights, distributive fairness, and supra-national democratic governance.

Cohen is a member of the American Academy, was 2002-2003 Phi Beta Kappa Romanell Professor in Philosophy, and since 1991 has been editor of *Boston Review*, a bi-monthly magazine of political, cultural, and literary ideas. He has edited 21 books that have grown out of forums that initially appeared in *Boston Review*, including *For Love of Country?*, *Is Multiculturalism Bad For Women?*, *What's Wrong With a Free Lunch?*, and *Islam and the Problem of Democracy*.

faculty

**Caspar Hare, Assistant Professor**



Caspar Hare joined the faculty in the Fall of 2003 from Princeton University. He is interested in ethics, and the bulk of his recent work has focused on problems that a consequentialist theory of normative ethics must face. The remainder has addressed connections between questions in ethics and questions in metaphysics -- questions about the nature of time, about what it is to be a person, and about what it is for a person to persist over time.

**Sally Haslanger, Professor**



Sally Haslanger has published on topics in metaphysics, epistemology and feminist theory, with a recent emphasis on accounts of the social construction of race and gender. In metaphysics, her work has focused on theories of substance, e.g., she has published on the problem of persistence through change and on Aristotle's view that substances are composites of matter and form. In connection with these issues she has also published articles on pragmatic paradox and supervenience. Her work in feminist theory takes up issues in feminist epistemology and metaphysics, with a special interest in the distinction between natural and social kinds. For example, she has published on feminist critiques of objectivity and the "construction" of reality. Her co-edited book *Somebody's Children: Essays on the Politics of Adoption* is forthcoming from Westview Press. She regularly teaches courses cross-listed with Women's Studies, and is on the Women's Studies Steering Committee. Before coming to MIT, she taught at the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, and the University of California-Irvine.

**Richard Holton, Professor**



Richard Holton arrived at MIT in the Fall of 2004. He graduated from University College, Oxford in 1984, having read Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He was a graduate student at Nuffield College, Oxford (1984-5), and the Ecole normale superieur, Paris (1985-6), before starting a Ph.D. in philosophy at Princeton (1986-1991). He taught at Monash University, Melbourne (1990-6), was a research fellow in the Philosophy Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University (1997-8) and then taught at Sheffield University (1998-9), and the University of Edinburgh (1999-2004). His doctoral dissertation was in the philosophy of language, and he continues to work in that area; but he is currently working mainly in moral psychology, ethics, and the philosophy of law.

**Rae Langton, Professor**



Rae Langton joined the department in the Fall of 2004. She taught at Monash University from 1990 to 1996, was a Fellow in the Philosophy Program, Research School of Social Science, Australian National University, from 1997-98, and taught at Sheffield University from 1998 to 1999, and at the University of Edinburgh from 1999 to 2004, where she was Professor of Moral Philosophy. She has been a visitor and guest speaker on many occasions at universities in Australia, Canada, the USA, the UK, New Zealand, India and Switzerland. Her areas of interest include the history of philosophy, ethics, political philosophy, metaphysics, and feminist philosophy, and she publishes in these areas. Her book on Kant's metaphysics and epistemology, entitled *Kantian Humility: Our Ignorance of Things in Themselves*, was published by Oxford University Press in July 1998. She is currently working on a volume of new and reprinted essays entitled *Sexual Solipsism*.

**Vann McGee, Professor**



Vann McGee's work displays a wholesome concern for truth and rationality, combined with a pathological preoccupation with paradox. Interests include problems about truth and reference, philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of logic, conditionals, foundations of probability, provability logic, and recursion theory. He is coordinating editor of the *Journal of Philosophical Logic*.

Agustín joined the faculty in 2005, after spending four years as an Arché Research Fellow at the University of St Andrews and a year as an assistant professor at the University of California, San Diego. He received his PhD from MIT in 2001. Agustín works mainly in the philosophy of logic, mathematics and language. Within the philosophy of logic, he's focused on philosophical problems and applications pertaining to higher-order resources and unrestricted quantification. Within the philosophy of math, he's done work on logicism, neo-logicism and mathematical realism. Within the philosophy of language, he's focused mostly on vagueness.

**Irving Singer, Professor**



Irving Singer is engaged in several areas of research: 1) He has recently finished a sequel to his book *Reality Transformed: Film as Meaning and Technique* (hardcover, 1998). The new book is entitled *Three Philosophical Filmmakers: Hitchcock, Welles, Renoir*. It was published by The MIT Press in 2004. Also in 2004 his book *Sex: A Philosophical Primer*, Expanded edition with a new chapter on "Marriage: Same-Sex and Opposite-Sex" was published by Rowman and Littlefield. 2) In 2001 two other books of his were published by Rowman and Littlefield. They are entitled: *Feeling and Imagination: The Vibrant Flux of Our Existence*; and *Explorations in Love and Sex*. 3) His book *George Santayana, Literary Philosopher* was published in 2000 by Yale University Press. Also in 2000 MIT Press published a paperback edition of *Reality Transformed*. 4) In 1998 the paperback edition of the last volume of his *Meaning in Life* trilogy appeared. This third volume, *The Harmony of Nature and Spirit*, was published in hardcover in 1996 by The Johns Hopkins University Press together with a new edition (including a new preface) of the first volume, *The Creation of Value*. The second volume of *Meaning in Life*, *The Pursuit of Love*, was published by The Johns Hopkins University Press in 1994, paperback 1995. 5) In 1995 Prometheus Press published *The Nature and Pursuit of Love: The Philosophy of Irving Singer*. This book includes 20 papers about his philosophy by others in the field as well as his rejoinder entitled "A Reply to My Critics and Friendly Commentators." 6) He is currently working on a book about the nature of creativity in art, science, and technology as well as one that deals with philosophical issues in literature and in opera.

**Robert Stalnaker, Professor**



Robert Stalnaker's teaching and research interests are in philosophical logic, the philosophy of mind, and the philosophy of language. He is the author of *Inquiry* (Bradford Books, 1984), of a series of papers on the logic and semantics of conditionals, most of which are included in an anthology on conditionals, *Ifs*, edited by W. Harper, G. Pearce, and Stalnaker (Reidel, 1981), and of a number of articles on the semantics and pragmatics of natural language [for example, "Pragmatics," *Synthese*, 22 (1970) and "Presuppositions," *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, 2 (1973)]. Papers extending ideas on the problem of intentionality and the relation between language and thought set out in *Inquiry* include "On What's in the Head," *Philosophical Perspectives*, 3 (1990) and "Narrow Content" in C. A. Anderson and J. Owens (eds), *Propositional Attitudes*, (CSLI, 1990). Two volumes of collected papers were recently published: *Context and Content* (Oxford, 1999), and *Ways a World Might Be* (Oxford, 2003). Current work in progress concerns the philosophical foundations of "possible worlds" semantics for modal and conditional logics, and uses of this semantic framework to help clarify metaphysical questions about necessity and possibility, concepts of knowledge, common knowledge and mutual belief, inductive reasoning, rational decision-making, and the relation between modality and quantification.

**Judith Thomson**, Professor



Judith Jarvis Thomson works in ethics and metaphysics. Her book, *The Realm of Rights* (Harvard University Press, 1990) is a study of the questions what it is to have a right, and which ones we have. An article entitled "Self-Defense" appeared in *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (Fall 1991); a recent article entitled "On some ways in which a thing can be good" appeared in *Social Philosophy and Policy* (Spring 1992). Her work in metaphysics has largely been on the ontology of events, and the identity across time of people and other physical objects. An article entitled "People and their bodies," which takes issue with views expressed by Derek Parfit in Part III of his *Reasons and Persons*, appeared in a collection of essays (edited by Jonathan Dancy) written on topics dealt with in that book. She is currently working on the question what it is for one event to cause another.

**Stephen Yablo**, Professor and Department Head



Stephen Yablo has been in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy since 1997. Before that he taught for twelve years at the University of Michigan. He did his graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Pune in Maharashtra, India. He works on identity, essence, causation, intrinsicness, paradox, metaphor, properties, existence, definition, conceivability, and truth.



For bibliographies of current and former faculty, go to:  
<http://web.mit.edu/philos/www/bibliographies.html>



faculty

The program of studies leading to the doctorate in philosophy provides subjects and seminars in such traditional areas as logic, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of science, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, aesthetics, social and political philosophy, and history of philosophy. Interest in philosophical problems arising from other disciplines, such as linguistics, psychology, mathematics and physics, is also encouraged.

Before beginning dissertation research, students are required to take two years of coursework, including a proseminar in contemporary philosophy that all students must complete in their first year of graduate study. Students are also required to pass general examinations and demonstrate competence in the following areas: value theory, logic and the history of philosophy.

Interdisciplinary study is encouraged, and candidates for the doctorate may take a minor in a field other than philosophy. There is no general language requirement for the doctorate, except in those cases in which competence in one or more foreign language is needed to carry on research for the dissertation.

Below is a detailed description of the philosophy Ph.D. program.

### **Your Advisor**

When you join the Department, you will be assigned a faculty advisor who will supervise your course of study until you start independent work on your thesis. Your advisor must approve your program at the beginning of each term, and you should keep him/her abreast of your progress and problems.

Your teachers will write comments on your performance in subjects which you complete. ("Subject" is MITese for course.) These comments will be placed in your file in the Department office (your file is open to you), and they will be discussed at a meeting of the faculty at the end of each term. You should see your advisor at the end of each term to review your progress.

You may change your advisor at any time, on condition of agreement by the faculty member you wish to have as your new advisor; you should notify the Committee on Graduate Students (COGS) of this change straightway.

### **Overall Course Requirements**

You must pass, with a grade (as opposed to an Incomplete), at least 10 subjects. At least 9 must be graduate subjects in philosophy at MIT, unless you take a minor in another field, in which case at least 8 must be graduate subjects in philosophy at MIT. Reading courses may not be used to satisfy this requirement. (If a student is excused from the teaching requirement, he/she must pass at least 11 subjects.)

Undergraduate subjects at MIT may be used to satisfy the overall course requirement only when warranted on educational grounds, in light of the student's preparation, and when approval of the instructor in charge of the subject has been obtained. The instructor may require that a graduate student do extra work in order to pass the course.

All students must take at least 3 subjects in philosophy at MIT during each term of their first year, and at least 1 subject in philosophy at MIT during each term of their second year. Normally, students take 4 subjects during their second year.

Students are strongly encouraged to audit additional subjects, in areas of philosophy outside as well as inside their primary areas of interest.

### **Teaching Requirement**

All graduate students must acquire some teaching experience. This requirement is normally satisfied by serving as a Teaching Assistant in an undergraduate subject in philosophy at MIT.

## Logic Requirement

The Department has a standing committee which is charged with administering the logic requirement; the requirement may be satisfied in one of the following ways:

(a) by successfully completing Logic I.

(b) by passing a formal logic examination set by the committee.

(c) by successfully completing an alternative or more advanced subject in logic at MIT (for example, modal logic or Logic II) approved by the committee.

(d) by being exempted from the requirement by the committee, on the basis of its evaluation of the student's previous work. Such exemption does not affect the overall course requirements.

The level of knowledge of logic expected for exemption, or tested on the examination, is what is covered in Logic I at MIT: proof procedure and semantics for first-order predicate logic with identity, and some acquaintance with standard metalogical results (for example, those concerning completeness, incompleteness and decidability).

Students are normally expected to satisfy the logic requirement by the beginning of their second year.

## Distribution Requirement

### Proseminar

All first-year students are required to complete the two-semester sequence 24.400-24.401 (Proseminar in Philosophy), which is an advanced treatment of basic problems in metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and philosophy of logic and mathematics. The two-semester sequence counts as two subjects.

### History of Philosophy

Students must demonstrate competence -- in the manner described below -- in the work of two major philosophers or philosophical schools prior to 1879, with the understanding that if two philosophers are chosen, they may not belong to the same school (for example, not two empiricists), and that if a philosopher and a school are chosen, the philosopher may not belong to the school.

### Value Theory

Students must demonstrate competence -- in the manner described below -- on topics in ethics or political philosophy or aesthetics.

### Manner of Demonstrating Competence

Competence is normally demonstrated by successfully completing appropriate graduate subjects: two in history and one in value theory. In case of doubt as to whether a subject is appropriate, the decision will be made by an ad hoc committee appointed by COGS.

A student may petition to be exempted from one or more of these requirements on the basis of his/her previous work; the decision whether to exempt the student will be made by an ad hoc committee appointed by COGS. Such exemption does not affect the overall course requirements.

## Writing Requirement

During your second year -- normally during your fourth term -- you must write a finished, "polished" paper, roughly 25 pages long, on a topic of your choosing. By the end-of-term meeting of their third term (typically the fall term of the second year), students must submit to their advisors in writing a brief statement describing the topic of their second year paper (a paragraph or so) and the names of two faculty members with whom they plan to work. Students should have spoken to and have the agreement of the faculty members they list.

The paper must be deemed satisfactory by both the supervisor and the second reader; after you have satisfactorily completed the writing of it, they will give you an oral examination on its contents.

This requirement must be met by the end of your fourth term. Meeting it will constitute passing the written and oral general examination requirements imposed by MIT's Graduate School.

## Petitions

A student may petition COGS to waive a requirement in light of his/her special circumstances.

## Minors

Although students are free to take subjects in other fields as their schedules permit, specific provision is made for minors in linguistics, mathematical logic, and psychology. A minor normally involves completion of 4 subjects (or their equivalent) beyond those required above, 3 in the allied field and 1 in a philosophy subject closely related to that field. For more specific details, students should consult COGS.

## Grades

Our faculty uses pluses and minuses, but the grades on your official transcript will be straight letter grades. Here are the meanings that MIT assigns to the grades:

**A** Exceptionally good performance, demonstrating a superior understanding of the subject matter, a foundation of extensive knowledge, and a skillful use of concepts and/or materials.

**B** Good performance, demonstrating capacity to use the appropriate concepts, a good understanding of the subject matter, and an ability to handle the problems and material encountered in the subject.

**C** Adequate performance, demonstrating an adequate understanding of the subject matter, an ability to handle relatively simple problems, and adequate preparation for moving on to more advanced work in the field.

**D** Minimally acceptable performance.

**F** Failed.

When the faculty determines the status of a student in the program, it does so on the basis of a review of the student's total performance, which includes weighing the strengths and weaknesses of his/her whole record. Thus it is in principle possible to redeem a weakness in one area by excellence in others.

An **Incomplete** (a grade of I) may be given only where what remains to be done is a minor part of the term's work. In subjects in which the major work is a term paper, students must hand in a draft of the term paper in order to get an I. If a student does not hand in a draft by 5pm on the day before the end of term meeting, the instructor is required to give the student an F. (The end of term meeting is shortly after the beginning of exam week.) A student who receives an Incomplete must submit the outstanding work on or before Registration Day of the next regular

term. (Note that this requirement is more stringent than the corresponding requirement imposed by MIT.)

## **Ph.D. Thesis**

A student is normally not allowed to begin work on a Ph.D. thesis until he/she has completed all of the requirements listed above. Students must complete all of those requirements by the end of their second year; exceptions will be made only after petition to COGS.

The Ph.D. thesis is a substantial piece of original work in philosophy. A student may plan to write a sustained piece of work on one topic; he/she may instead plan to write two or three papers on connected topics. Within the first month of the student's fifth term he/she will submit to COGS a short (three to five typewritten pages) description of the projected thesis.

When the plan is approved, COGS will appoint a thesis committee consisting of a thesis supervisor and two additional readers. Normally these advisors will be members of the Department chosen by the student and willing to undertake the responsibility. If the student wants to include a non-MIT professor, or an MIT professor in another Department, on the committee, this must be approved by COGS. The student will then meet with the members of the thesis committee for discussion of the material to be dealt with in the thesis.

The student will meet regularly with his/her thesis supervisor throughout the writing of the thesis, and will provide all members of the thesis committee with written work by the end of each term. This requirement holds for nonresident as well as resident students.

You may change a member of your thesis committee at any time, on condition of agreement by the faculty member you wish to have join your committee; you should notify COGS of this change straightway.

The following rules govern completion of the thesis.

### **Final Term**

The student will meet with his/her thesis committee during the first week of the term to assess the feasibility of completing the thesis during that term. The student and the committee will agree on a schedule of dates for meeting the following requirements; a copy of the schedule should be given to COGS.

### **MIT Deadline**

MIT requires that the completed thesis be delivered to the Department office by a date set by the Registrar for all Departments. (Early in January for February degrees, early in May for June degrees.) The Department regards this requirement as met by delivery to the thesis committee by that date of what the student regards as the final draft of his/her thesis.

### **Private Defense**

The student will meet privately with his/her thesis committee to defend the thesis and to discuss any needed revisions. This meeting will be deemed to be part of the thesis defense.

The private defense must be scheduled for a date which will leave time for the student to make revisions before delivering the thesis to the department office; the committee may wish to schedule the private defense before the MIT deadline.

### **Delivery of Thesis to Department Office**

One week before the public defense, the student must place two copies of the revised version in the Department office for examination by members of the Department. At this time, a copy of the abstract must be placed in each faculty member's mailbox.

## Public Defense

The public defense is open to all members of the Department and their guests; it is chaired by the thesis supervisor, and normally runs for an hour, starting with a twenty-minute presentation by the student of the main results of the thesis. The public defense is the one occasion on which the entire Department has an opportunity to learn about and participate in the student's work, and is a central part of the Ph.D. program.

The public defense is deemed to be the final part of the thesis defense. The decision whether to recommend award of the Ph.D. degree is made by majority vote of the philosophy faculty members in attendance at it.

The public defense must be scheduled for a date which will leave time for the student to make any needed revisions, and for the thesis supervisor to confirm that the revisions have been made, before submitting the final copies.

## Final Library Copy

The final library copy, signed by the student, the thesis supervisor, and the Chairman of COGS, must be given to the Departmental representative to MIT's Committee on Graduate School Policy (CGSP) by the day before that committee's end-of-term meeting at which it approves the final degree list.

## September Degrees

Students who will be unable to complete their theses during the spring term may wish to petition COGS for consideration for award of the degree in September. Such petitions will be granted on condition that an appropriate thesis committee can be constituted to work with the student during the summer. A schedule analogous to that described previously -- including the scheduling of private and public defenses -- must be given to COGS by the end of the spring term. The final, signed, library copy of the thesis must be given to the Departmental representative to CGSP by the day before that committee's September meeting at which it approves the September degree list.



## Requirements

To enter the doctoral program, students must have done well in their previous academic work and must be formally accepted as candidates for the Ph.D. degree by the department of linguistics and philosophy. Furthermore, an applicant must have received a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a college or university of acceptable standing.

Although there are no formal requirements for admission, successful applicants typically have an undergraduate major in philosophy, or a comparable level of preparation.

## The Application

A complete application includes the MIT application form, an official academic transcript from each college/university attended, and three letters of recommendation.

In addition to the application, all applicants should submit a writing sample in philosophy, ideally of 15-25 pages in length. The writing sample should allow us to assess the applicant's understanding of a philosophical problem, and ability to evaluate philosophical arguments. This assessment is usually easier if the writing sample explicitly engages with some of the contemporary philosophical literature.

## Deadline

Students are only admitted into the program in the fall. The application deadline is January 2nd for the following September. Decisions are communicated to applicants by early March.

## Tests

GRE scores are not required for admission to the doctoral program.

MIT requires international applicants whose native language is not English to submit the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). However, the department of linguistics and philosophy does grant TOEFL waivers.

In general, we grant waivers to students who have received a degree from an American or English-speaking university, or who show an extensive background in English. We ask that students who request a TOEFL waiver have their recommenders comment in depth on their English speaking, reading and writing skills as a part of the recommendation.

## Obtaining the Application Form

Applicants can receive the application form either by regular mail, by downloading it from the MIT graduate admissions website, or filling it out online (this is the preferred method).

To receive the application form by regular mail, contact the admissions office by phone at (617) 253-2917 or by email at [mitgrad@mit.edu](mailto:mitgrad@mit.edu).

To download the application or to apply on-line go to:

[http://web.mit.edu/admissions/graduate/how\\_to\\_apply/index.html](http://web.mit.edu/admissions/graduate/how_to_apply/index.html)

The application fee is \$70.00 in US dollars. Credit cards are accepted; please make checks or money orders payable to MIT. Please do not send cash.

## Sending the Application to MIT

If you do not fill out the application form online, mail it directly to the department:

department of linguistics and philosophy  
massachusetts institute of technology  
77 massachusetts avenue  
32-d808  
cambridge, ma 02139-4307  
usa

Please try to include supporting materials (transcripts, recommendation letters, etc.) with your application form. Send the supporting materials separately to the department if you fill out the application form online.

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**Do you have a masters program?**

No. The philosophy graduate program is a doctoral program only. In the Boston area, Tufts University offers a masters degree in philosophy. (<http://ase.tufts.edu/philosophy/>)

**How long is the Ph.D. program?**

Five years.

**Does the Ph.D. program have a language requirement?**

No.

**Do students get financial support from MIT?**

Yes. Currently, we can support five entering students each year with tuition plus a 9-month stipend. Although MIT regulations prohibit us from guaranteeing funding for more than any one year, we fully expect to be able to support students in good standing throughout the entire five-year period of the doctoral program. However, the department has limited funds for financial aid to graduate students, so we encourage you to apply for graduate fellowships from government agencies and foundations.

**I am an international applicant. Am I still eligible for financial support from MIT?**

Yes. All admitted students, whether or not they are US citizens, are eligible for support. International applicants should consult the international student office for information about visas, etc.

**Can I earn a doctoral degree through distance learning?**

No, the program does not offer classes through distance learning. (A related point: MIT's OpenCourseWare is not a distance learning program.)

**Are interviews required as part of the application process?**

No.

**Can I visit MIT before I apply, and talk with faculty and students?**

Of course. Send an email to any faculty member, who will be happy to arrange some appointments. Faculty e-mails can be found at: <http://web.mit.edu/philos/www/faculty.html>

**The department of linguistics and philosophy -- what's the story?**

Classes in linguistics were originally given within the department of modern languages, and a Ph.D. in linguistics was first offered by that department in 1961-62. In 1965 the department of modern languages became the department of modern languages and linguistics and, in 1969, the department of foreign languages and linguistics. Prior to 1964 philosophy was taught in the department of humanities. The philosophy department was formed when a Ph.D. program in philosophy was established in July 1971. In 1976 the curriculum in foreign languages and literatures became part of the responsibility of the department of humanities while the curriculum in linguistics became part of the department of philosophy to form the department of linguistics and philosophy.

The two sections of the department operate independent graduate programs, with separate chairs, one of whom heads the department as a whole. The current head of the department is our very own Stephen Yablo.

**Can philosophy Ph.D. students take linguistics classes?**

Yes. We also offer a minor in linguistics.

**Can students take classes at Harvard?**

Yes. There is also a Harvard/MIT reading group, and an annual Harvard/MIT graduate philosophy conference.

**What's that funny-looking building on the cover and throughout this brochure?**

The stata center -- we moved into it in march 2004. (<http://web.mit.edu/buildings/statacenter/>)

### **Graduate Admissions**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Bldg. 3103  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: (617) 253-2917  
URL: <http://web.mit.edu/admissions/www/>  
Email: [mitgrad@mit.edu](mailto:mitgrad@mit.edu)

### **Graduate Student Office**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Bldg. 3-138  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: (617) 253-4860  
URL: <http://web.mit.edu/gso/>

### **On Campus Graduate and Family Housing**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Bldg. E32-133  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: (617) 253-5148  
Email: [graduatehousing@mit.edu](mailto:graduatehousing@mit.edu)  
URL: <http://web.mit.edu/housing/grad/>

### **Off Campus Graduate Housing**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Bldg. E32-214  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: (617) 253-1493  
URL: <http://web.mit.edu/rslsp/och/>

### **International Students Office**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Bldg. 5-133  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: (617) 253-3795  
Email: [iso-help@mit.edu](mailto:iso-help@mit.edu)  
URL: <http://web.mit.edu/iso/www/>

### **Philosophy Home Page**

URL: <http://web.mit.edu/philos/www/>

## MIT Home Page

URL: <http://web.mit.edu/>

## School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

URL: <http://web.mit.edu/shass>

### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in education and employment. The Institute does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, disability, age, veteran status, ancestry, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other Institute administered programs and activities, but may favor US citizens or residents in admissions and financial aid.\*

The Vice President for Human Resources is designated as the Institute's Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX Coordinator. Inquiries concerning the Institute's policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to Laura Avakian, Vice President for Human Resources, Room E19-291, 617-253-6512 or to Regina A. Caines, Director of Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity Programs, Room E19-226, 617-258-8718. Inquiries about the laws and about compliance may also be directed to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, US Department of Education.

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\*The ROTC programs located on the MIT campus are operated under Department of Defense policies and regulations, and do not comply fully with MIT's policy of nondiscrimination with regard to sexual orientation. On the recommendation of the Faculty, MIT is working to develop a modified on-campus ROTC program open to all MIT students.