

Philosophy

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Philosophy is the logical examination of the fundamental issues people have pondered for over 2500 years. What is reality and what is beauty? What is knowledge and truth? What is good and just? Does human existence have meaning and does God exist? Philosophy courses are directed toward understanding these questions in their historical and cultural contexts and applying insights to contemporary life. Rigorous philosophical study will improve one's critical thinking skills.

Career Options

Education; Ethics; Management; Law; Government; Publishing; Religious Service; Scientific Research; Social Work; Teaching; All Human Service Careers

Some career options may require more than two years of college study.

Highlights

Dedicated and enthusiastic instructional staff with expertise in critical thinking and ethics

Excellent transfer preparation by emphasizing critical writing and reading

Examination of traditional philosophical issues

Philosophy (PHIL)

PHIL 300

Introduction to Philosophy

3 Units

Formerly: PHIL 6

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

(CAN PHIL 2)

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course will focus on critical thinking techniques and apply them to the following philosophical areas: metaphilosophy, theory of knowledge, metaphysics, ethics, political philosophy, and philosophy of religion. In applying critical thinking techniques to philosophical problems, students are encouraged to develop their own philosophical perspective and world view. The quality and quantity of the course's required writing will reflect the standards of a second semester composition course.

PHIL 304

Introduction to Eastern Philosophy

3 Units

Formerly: PHIL 3

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course provides an introduction to the philosophical traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism focusing on metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics.

PHIL 310

Introduction to Ethics

3 Units

Formerly: PHIL 5

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

(CAN PHIL 4)

Hours: 54 hours LEC

The application of theories developed by traditional and contemporary moral philosophy to the ethical problems, dilemmas, and issues of today.

PHIL 320

Logic and Critical Reasoning

3 Units

Formerly: PHIL 4

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

(CAN PHIL 6)

Hours: 54 hours LEC

An introduction to basic principles and frameworks of logic and critical thinking appropriately used in argument analysis: deduction, induction, fallacy recognition. Emphasis on developing analytical skills and applying principles of good reasoning to the arguments encountered in life. Argument topics from academic fields and textbooks, the electronic and print media, advertisements, politics and ethics may be considered. The quality and quantity of the course's required writing will reflect the standards of a second semester composition course.

PHIL 328
Critical Reasoning and Composition 3 Units
Formerly: PHIL 2
Prerequisite: ENGWR 300. Grade of "C" or better required to meet prerequisite.
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

Instruction in critical thinking, including traditional logic, and in advanced composition. A series of writing assignments will focus on increasing the sophistication of argumentative essay skills. Essays shall be evaluated for their quality in both critical thinking and composition. Theoretical models of critical thinking and composition shall be applied to academic fields and textbooks, electronic and print media, advertisements, ethics, politics, and multi-cultural issues.

PHIL 330
History of Classical Philosophy 3 Units
Formerly: PHIL 20
Prerequisite: None
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a survey of the origin and development of Western Philosophy from the period of the ancient Greeks and Romans, and continuing through the Middle Ages. This course is especially recommended for all philosophy, history and humanities majors.

PHIL 331
History of Modern Philosophy 3 Units
Formerly: PHIL 21
Prerequisite: None
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a survey of the development of Western Philosophy from the period of the Renaissance through the period of modern Europe and America. This course is especially recommended for all philosophy, history and humanities majors.

PHIL 338
Contemporary Philosophy 3 Units
Formerly: PHIL 8
Prerequisite: None
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

A comprehensive study of the basic ideas of pragmatists, twentieth century metaphysicians, philosophers of language, and existentialists. Special attention will be given to relevance of their ideas to modern life.

PHIL 350
Philosophy of Religion 3 Units
Formerly: PHIL 10
Prerequisite: None
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

A historical and topical survey of the questions, problems, and theories philosophers have developed in attempts to understand religion as a fundamental impulse within human experience and as a major cultural force. Rather than survey the different religions, this course considers the basic philosophical beliefs and concepts that seem auxiliary to religion. Topics explored include: the possibility of religious knowledge, faith versus reason, theistic arguments, conceptions of God, religious language, atheism, agnosticism, mysticism, the problem of evil, immortality, the challenge of science, and religion's influence on ethics and politics.

PHIL 352
Introduction to World Religions 3 Units
Formerly: PHIL 9
Prerequisite: None
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course will introduce students to the major world religious traditions, including indigenous sacred ways, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Students will study the practices and beliefs of each tradition, and will read selected material from the sacred writings of each tradition. Also considered is the influence of world religions in contemporary United States society, focusing on ethnicity, ethnocentrism, racism, ageism, class differences, and gender issues.

PHIL 356
Introduction to the Bible 3 Units
Formerly: PHIL 16
Prerequisite: None
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course surveys the literary, historical, ethical, theological and philosophical themes of the Bible. Students will read extensive passages from the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures with special focus on text criticism, the development of Monotheism, the social justice tradition of the Prophets, the Gospels and the "Jesus Problem," and the early development of the Christian Church.

PHIL 360
Philosophy of Social Sciences 3 Units
Formerly: PHIL 7
Prerequisite: None
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

A historical, methodological, and topical survey of significant themes of social and political philosophy from Plato to our present times: authority, freedom, government, justice, law, rights, society and the state.

PHIL 495
Independent Studies in Philosophy 1-3 Units
Formerly: PHIL 49I
Prerequisite: None
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: Variable
See Catalog under Alternative Credit/Study Options

PHIL 499
Experimental Offering in Philosophy .5-4 Units
Formerly: PHIL 49
Prerequisite: None
Course Transferable to UC/CSU; UC - See Counselor
Hours: Variable
See Catalog under Alternative Credit/Study Options