Philosophy

Philosophy is the critical, rational examination of fundamental questions that people have pondered for more than 2500 years. These include, but are not limited to, questions such as: What is reality? What is the nature of the self? Does God exist? What is good and just? What ought I to do? Philosophy courses are directed towards an understanding of these and other fundamental questions, often through reading and studying philosophers who have addressed these questions in the past, with appreciation of the historical and cultural contexts in which these questions are raised and answered. Philosophy courses help students to develop good logical and critical reasoning skills, expose hidden preconceptions, encourage open debate and independent thought, and provide opportunity to apply valuable insights gained to contemporary life.

Roadmaps

Road maps lay out all of the courses you need to take for a given degree or certificate.

Get a Road map! Explore Ways to Complete These Programs (/academics/arc-program-road-maps)

Division Dean | Diana Hicks (/about-us/contact-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/diana-hicks)
Department Chair | Dennis Holden (/about-us/contact-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/dennis-holder)
Area of Interest | People, Culture and Society (/academics/areas-of-interest/people-culture-and-society)

Associate Degree for Transfer

A.A.-T. in Philosophy

This program provides lower-division preparation for students interested in transferring into baccalaureate philosophy programs.

The Associate in Arts degree in Philosophy for Transfer provides students with a major that fulfills the general requirements of the California State University for transfer. Students with this degree will receive priority admission with junior status to the California State University system. The Associate in Arts degree in Philosophy for Transfer (AA-T) may be obtained by the completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program outlined below (earning a C or better in these courses) and (b) either the Inter-segmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education Breadth Requirements.

Catalog Date: June 1, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE CODE</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 300</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 310</td>
<td>Introduction to Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 320</td>
<td>Logic and Critical Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 324</td>
<td>Symbolic Logic (3)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or MATH 320</td>
<td>Symbolic Logic (3)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

A minimum of 6 units from the following:

Select 3 units from Philosophy Electives and 3 units from either Philosophy Electives or Humanities Electives.

**Philosophy Electives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE CODE</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 315</td>
<td>Contemporary Moral Issues (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 330</td>
<td>History of Classical Philosophy (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 331</td>
<td>History of Modern Philosophy (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 350</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 360</td>
<td>Social/Political Philosophy (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Humanities Electives**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE CODE</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLT 310</td>
<td>English Literature I (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLT 311</td>
<td>English Literature II (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLT 320</td>
<td>American Literature I (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLT 321</td>
<td>American Literature II (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLT 340</td>
<td>World Literature I (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLT 341</td>
<td>World Literature II (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 300</td>
<td>History of Western Civilization (3)</td>
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<td>COURSE CODE</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 302</td>
<td>History of Western Civilization (3)</td>
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<td>HIST 305</td>
<td>Women in Western Civilization (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 307</td>
<td>History of World Civilizations to 1500 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 308</td>
<td>History of World Civilizations, 1500 to Present (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 340</td>
<td>History of California through 1879 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 341</td>
<td>History of California: 1879 to Present (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 364</td>
<td>Asian Civilization (3)</td>
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<td>HIST 365</td>
<td>Asian Civilization (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 367</td>
<td>History of Russia (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 373</td>
<td>History of Mexico (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 480</td>
<td>History of Western Civilization - Honors (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 481</td>
<td>History of Western Civilization - Honors (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM 301</td>
<td>Introduction to the Humanities (3)</td>
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<td>HUM 302</td>
<td>Global Humanities: Atheism in Creativity, Thought, and Inspiration Traditions (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM 310</td>
<td>Modern Humanities (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM 320</td>
<td>Asian Humanities (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUM 326</td>
<td>Middle Eastern Humanities (3)</td>
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<td>HUM 330</td>
<td>Humanities of the Americas (3)</td>
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<td>HUM 355</td>
<td>Introduction to World Religions (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM 360</td>
<td>Introduction to the Old Testament (The Hebrew Bible) (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM 365</td>
<td>Introduction to the New Testament (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Units: 18

The Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer (AA-T) degree may be obtained by completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program, and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- identify and express arguments found in philosophical and non-philosophical sources.
- analyze arguments from philosophical and non-philosophical sources into their constituent premises and conclusions.
- evaluate the cogency of arguments from philosophical and non-philosophical sources with respect to structure and content.
- critically discuss and evaluate important concepts and theories in ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology.
- develop and defend personal views concerning important philosophical issues.

Career Information

Because of continuing social and technological changes, today’s graduates are more likely to change their jobs/careers than ever before. Job skills learned today for a specific career may be too specific to transfer to other jobs or simply become outdated. The technical skills and knowledge required by many fields are also changing, requiring constant updating to stay current. One advantage to studying philosophy is that it focuses on broader issues such as the nature of knowledge, values, the use of language, and the application of logic and critical reasoning: content that transfers across specific jobs/careers. The analytic skills developed in the study of philosophy are valuable in problem solving and effectively communicating ideas clearly and precisely. Finally, philosophy provides an excellent pre-law preparation, as philosophy majors generally score amongst the highest on the LSAT (Law School Admission Test).

Philosophy (PHIL)

PHIL 300 Introduction to Philosophy

| Units: | 3 |
| Hours: | 54 hours LEC |
| Prerequisite: | None |
| Advisory: | Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340. |
| Transferable: | CSU; UC |
| General Education: | AA/AS Area I; CSU Area C2; IGETC Area 3B |
| C-ID: | C-ID PHIL 100 |
| Catalog Date: | June 1, 2020 |

This course examines some of the perennial questions that have been addressed in the history of philosophy. Some of these include: Do we have free will? Is there a God? What is knowledge? What is the fundamental nature of reality? What makes actions right or wrong? This examination includes a critical analysis of fundamental concepts involved in the issues addressed by these questions, as well as an evaluation of reasoning used to defend various answers to them.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
PHIL 310 Introduction to Ethics

This course is an introduction to ethics and moral philosophy. It includes a survey of various normative ethical theories including Aristotle's Virtue Ethics, Utilitarianism, and Kant's Deontological Ethics. It may also cover various meta-ethical issues such as ethical relativism vs. ethical objectivism, as well as questions of knowledge and justification of moral claims. It may also include the application of normative ethical theories to contemporary moral issues.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Critically evaluate views concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- Compare and contrast differing theories concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- Analyze and evaluate arguments from primary sources concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- Assess presuppositions underlying various views concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- Formulate reasons to justify one's beliefs concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.

PHIL 315 Contemporary Moral Issues

This is an investigation into some of the moral issues our society presently faces. These issues may include abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering, individual liberty and the collective good, sexuality/gender and society, war and terrorism, capital punishment, hunger/poverty and moral obligation, discrimination, and affirmative action.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Critically evaluate views concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- Compare and contrast differing theories concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- Analyze and evaluate arguments from primary sources concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- Assess presuppositions underlying various views concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- Formulate reasons to justify one's beliefs concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.

PHIL 320 Logic and Critical Reasoning

This course introduces basic principles of good reasoning. It focuses on recognizing arguments and identifying their premises and conclusions. It examines the distinction between inductive and deductive standards of evaluation and includes an overview of types of inductive reasoning, deductive argument patterns, use and misuse of language, and fallacious reasoning. Practical application to everyday life is emphasized.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify arguments in everyday contexts.
- Analyze arguments into their constituent premises and conclusions.
- Distinguish between good and poor reasoning.
- Identify and explain a minimum of six common fallacies in reasoning.
- Explain the nature of deductive reasoning, including the difference between deductively valid and invalid arguments.
- Explain common types of inductive reasoning, including the difference between inductively strong and weak arguments.
- Identify various ways the use of language affects reasoning.
PHIL 324 Symbolic Logic

This course is an introduction to symbolic logic. It includes a study of the logic of sentences (propositional logic) and the logic of classes and relations (predicate logic), together with an introduction to the nature of deductive systems. This course is not open to students who have completed MATH 320.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- represent statements of English in well-formed sentences of predicate logic.
- prove the validity of statements and arguments in predicate logic using formal proof techniques.
- apply truth table or truth tree methods to determine semantic properties such as invalidity and consistency.
- construct interpretations that satisfy statements and sets of statements.
- distinguish classical first order logical systems from other logical systems.

PHIL 330 History of Classical Philosophy

This course is a survey of classical Greek philosophy. Through a careful examination of primary sources, it begins with an overview of Pre-Socratic thought and focuses primarily on the philosophical ideas of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. An overview of Hellenistic and Roman philosophy may be included.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- compare and contrast differing views expressed by ancient Greek philosophers—especially Plato and Aristotle—concerning the fundamental nature of reality, knowledge, and ethics.
- critically evaluate views expressed by ancient Greek philosophers concerning the fundamental nature of reality, knowledge, and ethics.
- analyze and evaluate arguments from ancient Greek primary sources concerning the fundamental nature of reality, knowledge, and ethics.
- formulate reasons to justify the student's beliefs about the theories expressed by Plato and Aristotle concerning the fundamental nature of reality, knowledge, and ethics.

PHIL 331 History of Modern Philosophy

This course is an overview of important themes in the history of Western Philosophical thought from the Early Modern era to the turn of the nineteenth century. These themes may include the fundamental nature of reality, knowledge, values, society, God, and human nature.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- critically evaluate views concerning the fundamental nature of reality, knowledge, mind, ethics, language and meaning, logic and mathematics, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- compare and contrast differing theories concerning the fundamental nature of reality, knowledge, mind, ethics, language and meaning, logic and mathematics, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- analyze and evaluate arguments from primary sources concerning the fundamental nature of reality, knowledge, mind, ethics, language and meaning, logic and mathematics, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- assess presuppositions underlying various views concerning the fundamental nature of reality, knowledge, mind, ethics, language and meaning, logic and mathematics, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- formulate reasons to justify one’s beliefs concerning the fundamental nature of reality, knowledge, mind, ethics, language and meaning, logic and mathematics, or other ideas addressed in the course.

PHIL 350 Philosophy of Religion
This course is an introduction to a philosophical examination of religion. This examination typically includes an analysis of basic religious concepts such as God, the afterlife, the soul, faith, karma, religious experience, good, and evil. The rationality of religious belief and the relation of religion to science may also be covered.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- critically evaluate views concerning the existence of God, the afterlife, religious faith, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- compare and contrast differing theories concerning the existence of God, the afterlife, religious faith, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- analyze and evaluate arguments from primary sources concerning the existence of God, the afterlife, religious faith, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- assess presuppositions underlying various views concerning the existence of God, the afterlife, religious faith, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- formulate reasons to justify one’s beliefs concerning the existence of God, the afterlife, religious faith, or other ideas addressed in the course.

**PHIL 360 Social/Political Philosophy**

Units: 3  
Hours: 54 hours LEC  
Prerequisite: None.  
Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGW 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.  
Transferable: CSU UC

This course is a historical and topical survey of significant themes of social/political philosophy from Plato to the present. Topics may include freedom, government, justice, law, rights, punishment, war, authority, and the state.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- critically examine personal views concerning justice, the nature of the state, or other ideas central to social/political thought.
- compare and contrast differing theories of freedom, justice, or other ideas central to social/political thought.
- distinguish between subjective certainty of a belief and justification for that belief.
- determine presuppositions underlying various views concerning society and politics.
- analyze and evaluate arguments from primary sources concerning social/political issues.

**PHIL 495 Independent Studies in Philosophy**

Units: 1 - 3  
Prerequisite: None.  
Transferable: CSU

This course is an introduction to a philosophical examination of religion. This examination typically includes an analysis of basic religious concepts such as God, the afterlife, the soul, faith, karma, religious experience, good, and evil. The rationality of religious belief and the relation of religion to science may also be covered.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- critically evaluate views concerning the existence of God, the afterlife, religious faith, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- compare and contrast differing theories concerning the existence of God, the afterlife, religious faith, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- analyze and evaluate arguments from primary sources concerning the existence of God, the afterlife, religious faith, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- assess presuppositions underlying various views concerning the existence of God, the afterlife, religious faith, or other ideas addressed in the course.
- formulate reasons to justify one’s beliefs concerning the existence of God, the afterlife, religious faith, or other ideas addressed in the course.

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