Philosophy

Overview

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.

Division Dean
Diana Hicks
Department Chairs
Dennis Holden
Phone (916) 484-8653

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

Degree Requirements

<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 320</td>
<td>Symbolic Logic (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A minimum of 6 units from the following</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 3 units from Philosophy Electives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and 3 units from either Philosophy Electives or Humanities Electives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Philosophy Electives**

- PHIL 315  Contemporary Moral Issues (3)
- PHIL 330  History of Classical Philosophy (3)
- PHIL 331  History of Modern Philosophy (3)
- PHIL 350  Philosophy of Religion (3)
- PHIL 360  Social/Political Philosophy (3)

**Humanities Electives**

- ENGL 310  English Literature I (3)
- ENGL 311  English Literature II (3)
- ENGL 320  American Literature I (3)
- ENGL 321  American Literature II (3)
- ENGL 340  World Literature I (3)
- ENGL 341  World Literature II (3)
- HIST 300  History of Western Civilization (3)
- HIST 302  History of Western Civilization (3)
- HIST 305  Women in Western Civilization (3)
- HIST 307  History of World Civilizations to 1500 (3)
- HIST 308  History of World Civilizations, 1500 to Present (3)
- HIST 340  History of California through 1879 (3)
- HIST 341  History of California: 1879 to Present (3)
- HIST 364  Asian Civilization (3)
- HIST 365  Asian Civilization (3)
- HIST 367  History of Russia (3)
- HIST 373  History of Mexico (3)
COURSE CODE | COURSE TITLE
---|---
HIST 480 | History of Western Civilization - Honors (3)
HIST 481 | History of Western Civilization - Honors (3)
HUM 301 | Introduction to the Humanities (3)
HUM 302 | Global Humanities: Atheism in Creativity, Thought, and Inspiration Traditions (3)
HUM 310 | Modern Humanities (3)
HUM 320 | Asian Humanities (3)
HUM 326 | Middle Eastern Humanities (3)
HUM 330 | Humanities of the Americas (3)
HUM 335 | Introduction to World Religions (3)
HUM 360 | Introduction to the Old Testament (The Hebrew Bible) (3)
HUM 365 | Introduction to the New Testament (3)

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) Courses

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 defends various answers to them.

PHIL 310 Introduction to Ethics

- 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 120
- Catalog Date: June 1, 2020

This course is an introduction to ethics and moral philosophy. It includes a survey of various normative ethical theories including Aristotelian 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.

PHIL 315 Contemporary Moral Issues

- 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
- Catalog Date: June 1, 2020

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

PHIL 360 Social/Political Philosophy

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.

PHIL 495 Independent Studies in Philosophy

PHIL 499 Experimental Offering in Philosophy
Units: 0.5 - 4
Prerequisite: None.
Transferable: CSU
Catalog Date: June 1, 2020