



philosophy

bachelor of arts: applied ethics and law concentration, logic and philosophy of science concentration ■ minor

Program Description

The subject of philosophy encompasses such fundamental issues as the scope and limits of human knowledge, the ultimate constituents of reality, the sources of value and obligation, and the nature of logic and correct reasoning. Philosophy utilizes the findings of many other academic disciplines and, in its method, it stresses clear, rigorous, and systematic thought. The application of philosophical ideas to the practical problems of life has always been a part of the subject.

CSUS offers the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Philosophy as well as a Philosophy minor. Philosophy is an excellent vehicle for refining one's skills in critical reasoning and rational decision-making, making it a useful major for a wide variety of career goals. Philosophy majors who plan a career in teaching at the college or university level must commit themselves to a program of graduate study upon completion of the BA.

Concentrations

BA: General Major / Applied Ethics and Law / Logic and Philosophy of Science

Faculty

Clifford Anderson, Christina Bellon, Bradley Dowden, Stan Dundon, Robert Foreman, Gale Justin, David Long, G. Randolph Mayes, Matthew McCormick, Patti Nogales, Thomas Pyne

Contact Information

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Special Features

- The Philosophy Department faculty are active scholars who have presented many written papers and public lectures. Most have published important articles and books in their respective areas of specialty.
- Flexible major and minor requirements allow students to choose electives to fit their specific interests and career objectives. The minor offers an excellent complement to many other majors. The Department has prepared a brochure with recommended sequences of minor courses for various majors. This brochure is available in the Department office. The Department also prepares a free booklet describing the upcoming semester's courses in detail, along with each professor's specific texts and course requirements. These booklets are always made available prior to the registration period before the end of each semester.
- Students are encouraged to take part in the Philosophy Club. Its monthly meetings are designed to promote group discussions about philosophical topics of interest. Club speakers have included students, philosophy faculty, professors from other departments on campus, and professors from other universities.
- The Philosophy Department is committed to a program of regular evening and night class offerings. Students who attend exclusively in evening or night hours will be able to complete all major requirements within a three-year period. A three-year schedule of offerings is available in the Department office. Some required courses will be offered only once in a given three-year period.

Career Possibilities

Law ■ Medicine ■ Government Administration ■ Labor Relations ■ Ministry ■ Publishing ■ Literary Criticism ■ Social Work ■ Educational Research ■ Educational Broadcasting ■ Scientific Research ■ Library Science ■ Management ■ Teaching ■ Journalism

Undergraduate Programs

Degree Requirements ■ BA

Units required for the Major: 33-36

Minimum total units required for the BA: 120

Courses in parentheses are prerequisites.

Students should choose from one of the three concentrations below.

Seniors are required to submit a sample philosophy essay to the Philosophy Department. This essay submission requirement is for the purpose of program assessment, not individual assessment, so it is not graded. The essay should be an example of the student's best work at CSUS.

Ordinarily the essay should have been written for an upper division philosophy course, but an exception may be made for work done outside a course. The deadline for submission is the end of the first week of student's final semester or of the semester immediately following completion of 105 units, whichever is first. Further information on this graduation requirement is available at the Philosophy Department Web page.

Requirements ■ Bachelor of Arts Degree – Concentration in General Major

Units required for the Major: 33

This general concentration forms an excellent basis for a broad liberal arts education and has been the chosen mode of preparation for successful careers in such diverse areas as university teaching, government, education, medicine, consulting, publishing, business, and finance.

A. Required Lower Division Courses (9 units)

- (3) PHIL 020 History of Ancient Philosophy
- (3) PHIL 021 History of Early Modern Philosophy
- (3) PHIL 060 Symbolic Logic I

B. Required Upper Division Courses (9 units)

- (3) PHIL 112 History of Ethics (Passing score on the WPE) **OR**
PHIL 152 Ethical Theory
- (3) PHIL 180 Theory of Knowledge (6 units in philosophy or instructor permission)
- (3) PHIL 181 Metaphysics (6 units in philosophy or instructor permission)

C. Electives (15 units)

Additional courses to a total minimum of 24 upper division units in Philosophy. At least 9 units (of the additional 15 units) must be selected from courses numbered 150 or above. Elective courses should be selected in consultation with an advisor.

Requirements ■ Bachelor of Arts Degree – Concentration in Applied Ethics and Law

Units required for the Major: 36

The concentration in Applied Ethics and Law is designed as a preparation for the study of law as well as for advanced professional study in applied ethics. It is also intended to give undergraduates a foundation in rational decision-making, embodying the conviction that such an intellectual capacity has broad application.

The concentration gives students an understanding of the theories behind moral and legal principles as well as training in the process of decision-making applying those principles. Students will be called upon to make decisions in particular cases; state the facts impartially; convey their decisions and their reasoning cogently and persuasively; and justify their decisions by showing how they are both a reasonable consequence of those principles and not overturned by overriding conflicting principles. There will be a particular emphasis on clear and effective writing.

A. Required Lower Division Courses (6 units)

- (3) PHIL 020 History of Ancient Philosophy **OR**
PHIL 021 History of Early Modern Philosophy
- (3) PHIL 060 Symbolic Logic I

B. Required Upper Division Courses (9 units)

- (3) PHIL 180 Theory of Knowledge (6 units in philosophy or instructor permission)
- (3) PHIL 181 Metaphysics (6 units in philosophy or instructor permission)
- (3) Select one of the following:
PHIL 153 Philosophy of Mind (3 units in philosophy or instructor permission)
PHIL 154 Philosophy of Language
PHIL 160 Symbolic Logic II (MATH 031, PHIL 060, or instructor permission)
PHIL 176 20th Century Anglo-American Philosophy

C. Ethical and Political Theory (6 units)

- (3) PHIL 112 History of Ethics (Passing score on the WPE) **OR**
PHIL 152 Ethical Theory
- (3) PHIL 122 Political Philosophy **OR**
PHIL 155 Philosophy of Law

D. Applied Ethics (6 units)

- (6) Select two of the following:
PHIL 100 Ethics and Personal Values
PHIL 101 Ethics and Social Issues (Passing score on the WPE)
PHIL 103 Business and Computer Ethics
PHIL 104 Bioethics

E. Electives (9 units)

- (3) Select one of the following:
 - PHIL 190 Seminar: Major Philosopher (6 units in philosophy or instructor permission.)
 - PHIL 192 Seminar: Philosophical Theme (6 units in philosophy or instructor permission.)
 - PHIL 196 Experimental Offerings in Philosophy
- (6) Choose some combination of the following:
 - Up to six units of any upper division philosophy courses (including courses listed above that have not been taken to satisfy the above requirements).
 - Up to six units of the upper division elective requirement may be satisfied, with the prior approval of the student's advisor, by taking concentration-related courses in disciplines other than philosophy: business administration, government, sociology, environmental studies, or other relevant fields.
 - Up to six units of the upper division elective requirements may be satisfied, with the prior approval of the program coordinator or Department Chair, by participating in a relevant internship.

All students must have completed 9 units of philosophy courses numbered 150 or above, excluding PHIL 152, PHIL 180, and PHIL 152. Some or all of these 9 units may be from courses satisfying requirements A through E.

Requirements ■ Bachelor of Arts Degree— Concentration in Logic and Philosophy of Science

Units required for the major: 36

The concentration in Logic and Philosophy of Science is designed for students who are interested in the general nature of scientific inquiry and/or philosophical problems that arise within specific fields like psychology, biology, and physics. It is a good choice for the science-oriented philosophy major and will help to prepare those who are interested in studying logic and philosophy of science at the graduate level. This concentration also provides an excellent double major opportunity for science students interested in broadening and deepening their grasp of their chosen field.

The concentration gives students an understanding of logical theory and how logic applies to scientific and philosophical reasoning. It will also provide an understanding of issues in the philosophy of science. These include the nature of scientific explanation, the nature of scientific evidence, and the process of confirming and revising scientific theories. Philosophy of science also explores traditional philosophical questions as they arise in the context of scientific inquiry. Some of these are: Do we really know that the theoretical entities of science exist? What is the difference between science and pseudo-science? Do different sciences give us fundamentally different ways of understanding the world? Is science converging on truth or will it always undergo revolutionary changes that reject widely accepted theories of the past? Does scientific inquiry have intrinsic value or are there questions that scientists should not ask?

A. Required Lower Division Courses (6 units)

- (3) PHIL 020 History of Ancient Philosophy
- (3) PHIL 021 History of Early Modern Philosophy

B. General Upper Division Courses (9 units)

- (3) PHIL 154 Philosophy of Language **OR**
PHIL 176 20th Century Anglo-American Philosophy
- (3) PHIL 180 Theory of Knowledge (6 units in philosophy or instructor permission)
- (3) PHIL 181 Metaphysics (6 units in philosophy or instructor permission)

C. Logic (6 units)

- (3) PHIL 060 Symbolic Logic I
- (3) PHIL 160 Symbolic Logic II (MATH 031, PHIL 060, or instructor permission)

D. Philosophy of Science (9 units)

- (3) PHIL 104 Bioethics **OR**
PHIL 105 Science and Human Values
- (3) PHIL 125 Philosophy of Science
- (3) PHIL 153 Philosophy of Mind (3 units in philosophy or instructor permission)

E. Upper Division Electives (6 units)

Any courses listed above that are not taken to satisfy the above requirements; other upper division philosophy courses; courses in other departments (with consent of Department Chair or program coordinator).

Requirements ■ Minor

Total units required for Minor: 18

Specific course requirements are:

- (3) PHIL 004 Critical Thinking **OR**
PHIL 060 Symbolic Logic I
- (3) PHIL 020 History of Ancient Philosophy
- (3) PHIL 021 History of Early Modern Philosophy
- (9) Electives, select 9 units of upper division Philosophy courses

Note: Students who minor in Philosophy are free to plan a sequence of courses suited to their individual needs and interests. However, for a given major, the Department offers certain courses that have particular relevance. Contact Department advisors for course recommendations.

Lower Division Courses

PHIL 002. Ethics. Examination of the concepts of morality, obligation, human rights and the good life. Competing theories about the foundations of morality will be investigated. 3 units. (CAN PHIL 004)

PHIL 004. Critical Thinking. Study of the basic skills of good reasoning needed for the intelligent and responsible conduct of life. Topics include: argument structure and identification, validity and strength of arguments, common fallacies of reasoning, use and abuse of language in reasoning, principles of fair play in argumentation. 3 units.

PHIL 006. Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge, World and Self. Representative selection of philosophical problems will be explored in areas such as knowledge, reality, religion, science, politics, art and morals. 3 units. (CAN PHIL 002)

PHIL 020. History of Ancient Philosophy. Examines the origin of Western philosophy, with emphasis on the works of the Pre-Socratics, Plato and Aristotle. Attention will be paid to the general historical and cultural setting within which the philosophical theories developed. 3 units. (CAN PHIL 008)

PHIL 021. History of Early Modern Philosophy. Examines the major developments in Western philosophy after the Middle Ages, with emphasis on the period from Descartes to Kant. Attention will be paid to the general historical and cultural setting within which the philosophical theories developed. 3 units. (CAN PHIL 010)

PHIL 060. Symbolic Logic I. Introduction to deductive logic. Topics include: basic concepts of deductive logic; techniques of formal proof in propositional and predicate logic. 3 units.

PHIL 096. Experimental Offerings in Philosophy. 3 units.

Upper Division Courses

PHIL 100. Ethics and Personal Values. Moral concerns of everyday life stressing such features of moral character as right and wrong conduct, virtue and vice, the emotions, attitudes, and personal relationships. Emphasis is on analytical and critical discussion of philosophical theories and competing viewpoints. 3 units.

PHIL 101. Ethics and Social Issues. Moral controversies that divide society today, such as abortion, the death penalty, affirmative action, sexism, war and peace. Emphasis is on identifying the relevant values and moral principles underlying competing views and subjecting them to rational assessment. **Prerequisite:** Passing score on the WPE. 3 units.

PHIL 103. Business and Computer Ethics. Analytical treatment of controversial moral issues which emerge in the business world, e.g., affirmative action, corporate responsibility, the global economy, industry and environmental damage, social effects of advertising, the computer threat to personal privacy, ownership of computer programs. Discussion will focus on basic moral principles and concepts relevant to these issues. 3 units.

PHIL 104. Bioethics. Ethical dilemmas faced by professionals and patients in the field of medicine, e.g., patient self-determination and informed consent, discrimination in health care, euthanasia, abortion, surrogate motherhood, genetic modification, and rights to health care. Emphasis is on the well-reasoned application of general moral principles to practical medical decisions. 3 units.

PHIL 105. Science and Human Values. Examination of the values implicit in a scientific culture and the problems that arise as a commitment to the development of scientific knowledge and technology. These problems include: distinguishing good scientific practice from bad; the intrinsic value of scientific knowledge independent of its benefits in application; the proper and improper applications of scientific knowledge. 3 units.

PHIL 112. History of Ethics. Investigation of the main approaches to ethics in Western moral philosophy. Emphasis on Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant and Mill. **Prerequisite:** Passing score on the WPE. 3 units.

PHIL 115. Philosophy in Literature. Study of selected works of fiction which focus on philosophically controversial questions, e.g., basic moral dilemmas, the meaning of life, alienation, nihilism, the existence of God. **Prerequisite:** Passing score on the WPE. 3 units.

PHIL 117. Existentialism. Study of the problem of the existing individual, or inner self — most especially the problem of choice in the context of radical freedom and finitude. Particular attention will be paid to the philosophical writings of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger and Sartre, through some major literary works of these figures and others (Camus, Dostoevsky) will also be considered. **Prerequisite:** Passing score on the WPE. 3 units.

PHIL 122. Political Philosophy. Critical evaluation of different political ideals such as classical liberalism, welfare state liberalism and socialism. 3 units.

PHIL 123. Philosophy and Feminism. Study of feminist perspectives on important philosophical questions. Examples of the questions treated are: mind-body dualism; reason and emotion; the fact/value distinction; the nature of the public and private realms; equal rights; and whether knowledge is intrinsically “gendered.” Different feminist perspectives will be considered and compared with traditional approaches to these questions. 3 units.

PHIL 125. Philosophy of Science. Study of the philosophical problems that arise in the sciences: how claims are justified, the limits and styles of explanation, identifying pseudoscience, values in science, unity and diversity of the sciences, and science’s impact on our world view. 3 units.

PHIL 126. The Meanings of Evolution. Study of the philosophical basis of the biological sciences: the power and limits of evolution as a scientific explanation; Darwinism, its refinements, alternatives and critics; the origin and nature of life; the scope of evolution as an explanation, including critical investigations of evolutionary psychology and sociobiology. 3 units.

PHIL 131. Philosophy of Religion. Inquiry into the concepts and presuppositions of religion. 3 units.

PHIL 136. Philosophy of Art. Inquiry into the nature of art, beauty and criticism, with critical consideration of representative theories. 3 units.

PHIL 145A. Chinese Philosophy. Survey of the major philosophical traditions of China and Japan, focusing on concepts of nature, man, society, freedom and knowledge. Special attention will be given to Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, and recent philosophical movements. Taught alternate semesters with PHIL 145B. **Prerequisite:** Passing score on the WPE. 3 units.

PHIL 145B. Indian Philosophy. Survey of the major schools of Indian philosophical development. Taught alternate semesters with PHIL 145A. **Prerequisite:** Passing score on the WPE. 3 units.

PHIL 152. Ethical Theory. Major topics in ethical theory with attention to their contemporary formulation, including such topics as utilitarianism vs. rights-based theories and the dispute over the objectivity of ethics. 3 units.

PHIL 153. Philosophy of Mind. Rival theories of the nature of the mind and mental activity, including dualism, materialism, functionalism. Difficulties in achieving a theoretical understanding of familiar psychological concepts such as belief, sensation, emotion, intention. **Prerequisite:** 3 units in philosophy or instructor permission. 3 units.

PHIL 154. Philosophy of Language. Traditional and contemporary theories of meaning. The connection between language, thought and reality. 3 units.

PHIL 155. Philosophy of Law. Theories of the nature of law, e.g., natural law, legal positivism, legal realism. Selected controversies in contemporary law will also be studied, such as the justification of punishment, the legislation of morality, judicial activism vs. judicial restraint. 3 units.

PHIL 160. Symbolic Logic II. Further study of deductive logic. Topics include: principles of inference for quantified predicate logic; connectives; quantifiers; relations; sets; modality; properties of formal logical systems, e.g. consistency and completeness; and interpretations of deductive systems in mathematics, science, and ordinary language. **Prerequisite:** MATH 031, PHIL 060, or instructor permission. 3 units.

PHIL 176. Twentieth Century Anglo-American Philosophy. Rise of the analytic tradition in contemporary Anglo-American philosophy represents a turn toward common sense, science, language, logic and rigor. Readings will cover the philosophical movements of common sense, logical atomism, logical positivism, ordinary language philosophy and more recent analytical philosophy. 3 units.

PHIL 180. Theory of Knowledge. Examines the concept to knowledge. Representative topics include: the role of sense perception and memory, the importance of certainty, the justification of belief, philosophical skepticism, the concept of truth and the nature of philosophical inquiry. Emphasis is on contemporary formulations. **Prerequisite:** 6 units in philosophy or instructor permission. 3 units.

PHIL 181. Metaphysics. Examines arguments concerning the nature of reality. Representative topics include: substance, space, time, God, free will, determinism, identity, universals. Emphasis is on contemporary formulations. **Prerequisite:** 6 units in philosophy or instructor permission. 3 units.

PHIL 190. Seminar: Major Philosopher. Intensive study of a single philosopher. **Note:** May be repeated for credit provided seminar topic is not repeated. **Prerequisite:** 6 units in philosophy or instructor permission. 3 units.

PHIL 190K. Seminar: Kant's Critical Philosophy. 3 units.

PHIL 190M. Seminar: Philosophical Thought of John Stuart Mill. 3 units.

PHIL 190P. Seminar: Plato's Socratic Dialogues. 3 units.

PHIL 192. Seminar: Philosophical Theme. Intensive study of important philosophical theme or issue. **Note:** May be repeated for credit provided seminar topic is not repeated. **Prerequisite:** 6 units in philosophy or instructor permission. 3 units.

PHIL 192D. Space and Time: Plato to Einstein. 3 units.

PHIL 192E. Environmental Philosophy. 3 units.

PHIL 192N. Seminar: Naturalism. 3 units.

PHIL 195. Philosophy Internship. Supervised work experience in an approved office or organization where significant philosophical issues are raised. The student must write regular reports on these issues. Supervision is provided by the faculty instructor and an managing official in the work situation. Open to majors only. **Prerequisite:** Instructor permission. Graded Credit/No Credit. 1-3 units.

PHIL 196. Experimental Offerings in Philosophy. Experimental offerings will be scheduled as needed. 3 units.

PHIL 199. Special Problems. Special projects calling for independent philosophical investigation under the supervision of an individual faculty member. **Note:** Requires prior approval of the faculty member under whom work is to be conducted. 1-3 units.

Graduate Courses

PHIL 299. Special Problems. Special projects calling for independent philosophical investigation under the supervision of an individual faculty member. **Note:** Requires graduate status and prior approval of the faculty member under whom work is to be conducted. 1-3 units.