

PHILOSOPHY



BACHELOR OF ARTS 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, but it is only recently that universities have begun offering courses specifically oriented in this direction. We now offer several courses in applied ethics here at CSUS.

CSUS offers the Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Philosophy and also offers a minor in Philosophy. Philosophy is a useful major for a wide variety of career goals. It 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 law, government, education, medicine, consulting, publishing, and business and finance. Philosophy is an excellent vehicle for refining one's skills in critical reasoning and rational decision-making. 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.

FACULTY

William Lovitt, *Department Chair*

Clifford Anderson; Bradley Dowden; Stan Dundon;
Robert Foreman; Gale Justin; David Long; Marina Oshana;
Thomas Pyne; Joseph Wu

Marjorie Lee, *Department Secretary*
Department Office, Psychology 452A, 278-6424

FEATURES

The Philosophy Department faculty members are active scholars who have all presented many written papers and public lectures. Most have published important articles and books in their respective areas of specialty.

The 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 each semester 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 prior to the end of each semester.

Students are encouraged to take part in the Philosophy Club meetings. The 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

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS • BA

Total units required for BA: 124

Total units required for Major: 33

A. Required Lower Division Courses (9 units)

- (3) PHIL 60 Symbolic Logic I
- (3) PHIL 20 History of Ancient Philosophy
- (3) PHIL 21 History of Early Modern Philosophy

B. Required Upper Division Courses (9 units)

- (3) PHIL 112 History of Ethics **OR**
PHIL 152 Recent Ethical Theory
- (3) PHIL 180 Theory of Knowledge
- (3) PHIL 181 Metaphysics

C. Electives (15 units)

Additional courses to a total minimum of 24 upper division units in Philosophy. Elective courses should be selected in consultation with an advisor.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

Total units required for Minor: 18

Specific course requirements are:

- (3) PHIL 4 Critical Thinking **OR**
PHIL 60 Symbolic Logic I
- (3) PHIL 20 History of Ancient Philosophy
- (3) PHIL 21 History of Early Modern Philosophy
- (9) Electives, select nine 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 offer certain courses that have particular relevance. Contact department advisors for course recommendations.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

2. Introduction to 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 4)

4. Critical Thinking. A 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.

6. Knowledge, World and Self: Introduction to Philosophy. A representative selection of philosophical problems will be explored in areas such as knowledge, reality, religion, science, politics, art and morals. 3 units. (CAN PHIL 2)

20. History of Ancient Philosophy. A survey of the philosophy of ancient Greece with emphasis on the historical development of certain themes in pre-Socratic philosophy and on major topics in the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle. 3 units. (CAN PHIL 8)

21. History of Early Modern Philosophy. The development of Western philosophy from the Renaissance through 18th Century, emphasizing the contributions of Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Kant. 3 units. (CAN PHIL 10)

60. Symbolic Logic I. An introduction to deductive logic. Topics include: basic concepts of deductive logic; techniques of formal proof in propositional and predicate logic. 3 units.

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

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

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.

101. Ethics and Social Issues. Moral controversies that divide society today, such as abortion, the death penalty, affirmative action, sexism, nuclear deterrence. 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.

103. Business and Computer Ethics. Analytical treatment of controversial moral issues which emerge in the business world, e.g., affirmative action, corporate responsibility, 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.

104. Bioethics. Ethical dilemmas faced by patients and professionals in the field of medicine, e.g., abortion, the problem of defective newborns, truth telling and informed consent, psychosurgery, rights to health care. Emphasis is on the well-reasoned application of general moral principles to practical medical decisions. 3 units.

112. History of Ethics. A survey of the major traditions in Western moral philosophy from early Greek to contemporary times. Emphasis is on Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, and Mill. **Prerequisite:** Passing score on the WPE. 3 units.

115. Philosophy in Literature. A 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.

117. Existentialism. The course will deal primarily with the existentialist writings of Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus, with some examination of the philosophers and philosophical doctrines which influenced their intellectual development. Texts will include selections from both the technical and the literary side of existentialist literature. **Prerequisite:** Passing score on the WPE. 3 units.

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

125. Philosophy of Science. A 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.

131. Philosophy of Religion. An inquiry into the concepts and presuppositions of religion. 3 units.

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

145A. Chinese Philosophy. A 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.

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

152. Recent Ethical Theory. Major developments in ethical theory in the twentieth century. Utilitarianism vs. rights-based theories. The dispute over the objectivity of ethics. 3 units.

153. Philosophical Psychology. 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:** three units in philosophy or permission of instructor. 3 units.

154. Philosophy of Language. Traditional and contemporary theories of meaning. The connection between language, thought, and reality. **Prerequisite:** six units in philosophy or permission of instructor. 3 units.

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.

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 31, PHIL 60, or permission of instructor. 3 units.

175. Nineteenth Century European Philosophy. Studies of major post-Kantian philosophers such as Kierkegaard, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Mill and Frege. **Prerequisite:** PHIL 21. 3 units.

176. Twentieth Century Anglo-American Philosophy. The 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. **Prerequisites:** PHIL 4, 21. 3 units.

177. Contemporary European Philosophy. Leading developments in contemporary French and German philosophy, with particular emphasis on *Being and Nothingness* of Jean-Paul Sartre and on the later essays of Martin Heidegger. **Prerequisite:** six units in philosophy including PHIL 21; or permission of instructor. 3 units.

180. Theory of Knowledge. Seminar on the nature and validity of knowledge. **Prerequisite:** PHIL 21. Spring only. 3 units.

181. Metaphysics. Critical study of theories concerning reality. **Prerequisite:** PHIL 21. Fall only. 3 units.

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

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

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

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

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