

Definition

The study of philosophy is designed to acquaint students with the distinctive nature of philosophical activity and to help them increase their skills in critical thinking about matters of fundamental philosophical concern; e.g., the nature of correct reasoning, the scope and limits of human knowledge, the generic and pervasive characteristics of reality, and the sources of value and obligation. It encompasses many other academic disciplines and stresses systematic and abstract thought.

Staff

To access faculty and staff, dial (661) 722-6300, then the 4-digit extension.

Dean:

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Program Description

The Philosophy program is limited to a select number of courses, but these will provide students pursuing any major with a solid foundation in philosophy. A comprehensive survey course is supplemented by substantive courses in logic, ethics and comparative religion.

Distinctive Features

While being exposed to a wide spectrum of major philosophical viewpoints, students have the opportunity to discuss philosophical issues and problems, clarifying their own values and developing their reasoning capabilities.

Career Options

Philosophy as an elective is an appropriate element in career preparation for:

Education

Government

Law

Management

Medicine

Ministry

Publishing

Scientific Research

Social Work

Teaching

All human service careers

(Most of these careers require education beyond the two-year college level.)

Program Learning Outcomes

Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer

1. Students will describe accurately, explain clearly, and evaluate fairly various classical and contemporary philosophical issues, concepts, and theories.
2. Students will be able to identify, to interpret, to reconstruct and to evaluate arguments and non-arguments such as explanations from different disciplines and perspectives logically and quantitatively.
3. Students will be able to present well-reasoned and clear arguments to support their positions on philosophical issues or social controversies theoretically and factually.

Certificate Program

Certificate not applicable.

Associate Degree

Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer

The Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer (AA-T in Philosophy) degree offers students a fundamental understanding of the main fields of Philosophy, including logic, ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, social and political philosophy, aesthetics, and philosophy of religion. While being exposed to a wide spectrum of major philosophical theories, students have the opportunity to discuss how philosophical issues and problems are related to their personal lives, clarifying their own values and developing their reasoning capabilities.

The Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer (AA-T in Philosophy) degree meets the requirements of SB 1440 for Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT). These degrees are intended to make it easier for students to transfer to California State University campuses, but do not exclude admittance to other colleges or universities.

To earn an Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer (AA-T in Philosophy) degree a student must complete the following:

(1) Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:

(A) The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education – Breadth Requirements.

(B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.

(2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

ADTs also require that students must earn a C or better in all courses required for the major or area of emphasis.

Required Courses	units
Select 6 units from the following:	
*PHIL 110, Introduction to Logic	3
*PHIL 106, Introduction to Philosophy or	
*PHIL 105, Ethics: Moral Issues in Contemporary Society	3

Required Electives A	units
Select 3 units from any course in the Required Courses not already used or the following:	
PHIL 201, Critical Thinking	3

Required Electives B	units
Select 6 units from any course in Required Electives A not already used and the following:	
*PHIL 108, Philosophy of Religion	3
*HIST 101, Western Civilization, From Human Beginnings Until 1750	3
*HIST 102, Western Civilization, 1750-Present	3

Required Electives C	units
Select 3 units from any course in Required Electives A and B not already used or the following:	
*PHIL 109, World Religions	3
*ENGL 230, World Literature 1	3
*ENGL 231, World Literature 2	3
*ENGL 250, Cross-Cultural Literature in America	3

*Courses denoted with an asterisk will fulfill the completion requirements for both the major and general education.

Except in cases of prerequisite requirement, it is not required that courses be taken in exactly this sequence; they are recommended in this order to facilitate success.

Recommended Plan of Study

First Semester	units
CSU GE requirement Area A1	3
CSU GE requirement Area A2	3
CSU GE requirement Area B4	3-5
CSU GE requirement Area C1	3
CSU GE requirement Area E	3
Total 15-17	

Second Semester	units
PHIL 105, Ethics: Moral Issues in Contemporary Society (CSU GE C2)	3
PHIL 106, Introduction to Philosophy (CSU GE C2)	3
Required Elective B (CSU GE D)	3
CSU GE requirement Area B1/B3	3-4
CSU GE requirement Area B2/B3	3-4
Total 15-16	

Third Semester	units
PHIL 110, Introduction to Logic (CSU GE A3)	3
Required Elective A	3
CSU GE requirement Area D	3
*CSU Transferable Electives	5
Total 14	

Fourth Semester	units
Required Elective B	3
Required Elective C	3
CSU GE requirement Area D	3
*CSU Transferable Electives	5
Total 14	

**CSU GE or IGETC Pattern 37-39
CSU Transferable Elective Units to
reach Degree Total 60**

*Electives should be taken from other courses within the discipline.

Transfer

Students planning to continue studies at a four-year college or university after AVC should visit the Transfer Resource Center and consult with a counselor as soon as possible. Additional information on official transfer articulation agreements from AVC to many CSU/UC campuses can be found at the following Web site: www.assist.org

Prerequisite Completion

If a course is listed as a prerequisite for another course, that prerequisite course must be completed with a satisfactory grade in order to enroll in the next course. According to Title 5, Section 55200(d), a satisfactory grade is a grade of "A," "B," "C" or "P". Classes in which the Pass/No Pass option is available are indicated with an asterisk (*) before the course title. See "Pass/No Pass Option" in the catalog for full explanation.

Philosophy Courses

PHIL 101 *FUNDAMENTAL REASONING SKILLS

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading, ENGL 101/ENGL 101SL and MATH 070.

The central goals of this course are to help students develop and improve interpretive and evaluative skills that will help them to become more competent and independent thinkers in their personal, academic, social, and professional lives, and in their life-long learning. Various aspects of language, logic, and reasoning will be studied in order to evaluate correctly concepts, claims, arguments, and explanations from a variety of contexts and disciplines. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 105 ETHICS: MORAL ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 099.

An introduction into the nature of ethics and to the question as to what ethical system, if any determines right and wrong. This course will not only examine certain traditional approaches to ethical questions, but will investigate the possible application of these approaches to current ethical conflicts. An analysis of moral issues, such as violence, sex, war, abortion, capital punishment, privacy, oppression, pornography, and euthanasia will be emphasized. (C-ID: PHIL 120) (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 106 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 099.

An introductory examination of themes and issues central to both classical and contemporary philosophy. Topics will be selected from such areas as ethics, politics, metaphysics, epistemology, religion and logic. (C-ID: PHIL 100) (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 108 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 099.

This course emphasizes the philosophical analysis of religious issues and themes. Such themes as the nature and variety of religious expression will be explored, analyzed, and evaluated. The philosophical task revolves around the effort to determine whether there is a special kind of knowledge to be called "Religious"; if so, how is it gained; if it is gained, what its implications will be for human conduct. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 109 WORLD RELIGIONS

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101/ENGL 101SL.

In this course students will examine the central beliefs, rituals, traditions, and the philosophical foundations of the major world religions, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism by studying their primary sacred texts. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 110 INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading, ENGL 099 and MATH 070.

An introduction to both formal and informal logic. Logic includes a study of linguistic analysis, immediate and mediate inference, symbolic notation, deductive proofs and fallacies. Attention is given to both traditional and modern symbolic systems. Critical thinking is applied to both symbolic and written arguments. Argumentative writing will be explored through both formal and informal logical analysis. (C-ID: PHIL 110) (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 201 CRITICAL THINKING

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of ENGL 101/ENGL 101SL.

An introduction to the logical analysis and critical evaluation of arguments and the basic strategies of rhetoric. Different forms of writing are distinguished and examined. A strong emphasis is on formal instruction in argumentative writing that utilizes the critical thinking skills developed in the course. (CSU, UC, AVC)