

Philosophy

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty

Emeritus: Friedman, McClurg, Nelson, O'Reilly, Shields,
Snyder, Troxell, Warren, Weissman

Chair: Barbone

Professors: Corlett, Feenberg, Rosenstein, Weber, Weston

Associate Professors: Barbone, Chaffin, Francescotti, Moellendorf,
Wheeler

Assistant Professor: Berteaux

Offered by the Department

Master of Arts degree in philosophy.

Major in philosophy with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.

Minor in philosophy.

The Major

The philosophy major explores and seeks to understand values and the nature of reality. Through the study of philosophy, questions are asked about existence and experience: What is truth? What is morally right? What kind of life is best? What kind of society? Is there an ultimate reality? Philosophy studies the types of questions that most other subject areas are unable to address fully.

There are three different ways these questions are characteristically investigated in the philosophy major at San Diego State University. They are approached historically, by studying the history of philosophy from the ancient Greeks to the present; analytically, by carefully examining the meanings and interrelationships of ideas; and critically, by training students in the art of evaluating various claims and the arguments for and against them.

While the analytical and critical approach are part of every course in philosophy, the philosophy curriculum at San Diego State University emphasizes the historical approach. The aim is to provide the philosophy major with a thorough grounding in the development of philosophy so that the student is well prepared to participate in the discussion of contemporary issues.

The education of a philosophy major, along with providing the satisfaction of dealing with fundamental issues which have concerned serious thinkers for many centuries, also provides the student with skills that may be used in a variety of careers. Some students begin graduate work after their B.A., either in philosophy, with the expectation of teaching or writing in the field, or in law, education, or other professional programs. Some enter new fields of research, working on computer problems or artificial intelligence. Other students find that the special skills they have developed as philosophy majors - the ability to read complex material with comprehension, to analyze problems, to find relevant sources, to evaluate evidence, to propose solutions and to examine them self-critically, and to report the results of their inquiries with clarity and coherence - are valued by employers in many different fields. Such students may find career opportunities in government, industry, finance, and social services.

Advising

All College of Arts and Letters majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible; they are required to meet with their department adviser within the first two semesters after declaration or change of major.

Philosophy Major

**With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences
(Major Code: 15091)**

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 48 units in philosophy courses can apply to the degree.

A minor is not required with this major.

Preparation for the Major. Six lower division units in philosophy to include Philosophy 110 or 120. Philosophy 120 is preferred as preparation for Philosophy 521.

Foreign Language Requirement. Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language as part of the preparation for the major. Refer to section of catalog on "Graduation Requirements."

Upper Division Writing Requirement. Passing the University Writing Examination or one of the approved writing courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

Major. A minimum of 30 upper division units in philosophy to include Philosophy 521; at least nine units selected from Philosophy 411, 412, 413, 414; and no more than six units of 300-level courses. During the last semester, all seniors shall submit to the department a portfolio of their scholarly work in philosophy.

Philosophy Minor

The minor in philosophy consists of 24 units in philosophy: Six lower division units to include Philosophy 110 or 120, and 18 upper division units to include no more than six units of 300-level courses.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

Courses (PHIL)

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

101. Introduction to Philosophy: Values (3) I, II (CAN PHIL 4)

Introduction to philosophical inquiry, with emphasis on problems of value. Students are encouraged to think independently and formulate their own tentative conclusions.

102. Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality (3) I, II

Introduction to philosophical inquiry with emphasis on problems of knowledge and reality. Students are encouraged to think independently and formulate their own tentative conclusions.

103. Historical Introduction to Philosophy (3) I, II

Introduction to philosophical inquiry through study of the works of major philosophers in their historical contexts.

110. Critical Thinking and Composition (3)

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the English Placement Test and Writing Competency requirements and Africana Studies 120 or Chicana or Chicano Studies 111B or Linguistics 100 or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; grade report or copy of transcript.

Introduction to critical thinking and writing. Evaluation and development of correct reasoning and effective style and organization in argumentative writing. Correct deductive and inductive reasoning. Fallacies. Critical appraisal of evidence. Construction of rebuttals and counter-arguments.

120. Introduction to Logic (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Satisfaction of the Entry-Level Mathematics requirement.

Introduction to deductive and inductive logic. Logic and language. Analysis of fallacies. Uses of logic in science and in daily life.

296. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

**UPPER DIVISION COURSES
(Intended for Undergraduates)**

Students taking 300-level courses for the major will be required to do extra work to be arranged with the instructor.

305. Classics of Western Philosophy (3)

Prerequisites: Upper division standing, and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities.

Analysis of major texts selected from diverse historical periods in western philosophy. Texts will illustrate different world views (e.g., Platonism, Stoicism, Skepticism) and their relationship to other disciplines and to present world views.

310. Philosophy and Human Nature (3)

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities.

Concept of human nature. Descriptive and normative aspects of major theories of human nature.

329. Social Ethics (3)

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities.

Ethical issues of contemporary life. Individualism vs. collectivism; democracy vs. dictatorship; ethical problems arising in law, medicine, business, government and interpersonal relationships.

330. Medical Ethics (3)

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities.

Value judgments upon which medicine is based and the ethical issues which medicine faces.

332. Environmental Ethics (3)

Prerequisite: Completion of General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities.

Development of traditional values concerning the natural environment. Reasons for altering values in light of modern changes in relationship of human beings to the environment. Application of ethical principles to actions affecting the environment.

333. Philosophy of Technology (3)

Prerequisite: Completion of General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities.

Nature of technology. Ethical aspects of social, political, and environmental problems associated with rapid development of technology over the last century. Responses to these problems by contemporary philosophers.

334. Philosophy of Literature (3)

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities.

Study of literature of philosophical significance, and of philosophical problems of literature.

351. Chinese Philosophy (3)

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities.

Philosophical traditions which have shaped the intellectual life and culture of China. Emphasis on foundational texts surviving from pre-Han China.

411. Ancient Western Philosophy (3) I

Prerequisite: Three units in philosophy.

Ancient western philosophy through the third century A.D.

412. Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy (3) II

Prerequisite: Three units in philosophy.

European philosophy from the fourth century through the sixteenth century.

413. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century European Philosophy (3) I

Prerequisite: Three units in philosophy.

European philosophy in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

414. Nineteenth Century European Philosophy (3) II

Prerequisite: Three units in philosophy.

European philosophy in the nineteenth century.

496. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

499. Special Study (1-3) I, II

Prerequisites: Six upper division units in philosophy and prior arrangements with a supervising instructor.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units.

**UPPER DIVISION COURSES
(Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)**

506. Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy (3)

Prerequisite: Six upper division units in philosophy.

Major figures and movements in European philosophy from Husserl to the present.

507. Twentieth Century Anglo-American Philosophy (3)

Prerequisite: Six upper division units in philosophy.

Major movements, issues, or figures of twentieth century Anglo-American philosophy. Course may be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units.

508. Existentialism (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

The philosophical aspects of existentialism. Major emphasis is on the diversity of thought within a common approach as this is shown in individual thinkers.

510. Philosophy of Law (3)

Prerequisites: Three units from Philosophy 101, 102, or 103; and three units from philosophy or political science.

Nature of law and logic of legal reasoning. Review of certain key legal concepts such as causation, responsibility, personality, and property.

512. Political Philosophy (3)

Prerequisite: Philosophy 101, 102 or 103.

Selected aspects of the political structures within which we live, such as law, power, sovereignty, justice, liberty, welfare.

521. Deductive Logic (3)

Prerequisite: Philosophy 110 or 120. Recommended: Philosophy 120.

Principles of inference for symbolic deductive systems; connectives, quantifiers, relations and sets. Interpretations of deductive systems in mathematics, science and ordinary language. Not open to students with credit in Mathematics 523.

523. Theory of Knowledge (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

The major theories of human knowledge: mysticism, rationalism, empiricism, pragmatism.

525. Metaphysics (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

Prominent theories of reality, e.g., realism and nominalism, materialism and idealism, teleology and determinism.

528. Theory of Ethics (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

Significant and typical value theories and systems and the concrete problems such theories seek to explain. Emphasis will be on moral values.

531. Philosophy of Language (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

An introduction to theories of meaning for natural languages and formal systems; concepts of truth, synonymy and analyticity; related epistemological and ontological problems.

532. Philosophy of History (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

The nature of history and historical inquiry. As metaphysics: A study of theories of historical development. As methodology: History as science, truth and fact in history, historical objectivity, the purpose of history.

536. Philosophy of Mind (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in philosophy.

Analysis of the concept of mind, intention, behavior, etc. Developments generated by works of such philosophers as Wittgenstein, Wisdom, and Ryle.

537. Philosophy of Science (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

The basic concepts and methods underlying contemporary scientific thought. Contributions of the special sciences to a view of the universe as a whole.

541. History of Aesthetics (3)

Prerequisite: Philosophy 101, 102 or 103.

Major documents in the history of aesthetics.

542. Philosophy of Art (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

The nature of aesthetic experience. Principal contemporary theories of art in relation to actual artistic production and to the function of art in society.

543. Philosophy and Literary Theory (3)

Prerequisites: Three upper division units in philosophy and three upper division units in literature.

Relations between philosophy and literary discourse. Strategies of interpretation offered by major contemporary thinkers.

555. Philosophy of Technology (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

Philosophy of technology in leading thinkers such as Marx, Heidegger and Marcuse.

575. A Major Philosopher (3)

Prerequisite: Six upper division units in philosophy.

The writings of one major philosopher. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to the major. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

596. Selected Topics (3)

Prerequisite: Six upper division units in philosophy.

A critical analysis of a major problem or movement in philosophy. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596 applicable to the major in philosophy. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

599. Special Study (1-3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing and consent of instructor.

Directed individual study in philosophy on a theme or topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. Maximum credit six units. Maximum combined credit six units of Philosophy 599 and 798 applicable to the M.A. degree in Philosophy.

GRADUATE COURSES

Refer to Bulletin of the Graduate Division.

Physical Education

Refer to "Exercise and Nutritional Sciences" in this section of the catalog.