
Philosophy

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty

Steven L. Barbone, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy,
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Leon Rosenstein, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus
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General Information

The Department of Philosophy offers a program of graduate studies leading to the Master of Arts degree in philosophy. This curriculum is designed to provide advanced study in the field of philosophy as a basis for further graduate work and to meet the needs of students who plan to teach in colleges or hold other positions of leadership.

Admission to Graduate Study

All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing as described in Part Two of this bulletin. Students may be considered for admission to the graduate program in philosophy in one of two ways.

1. Admission with classified graduate standing requires:
 - a. An undergraduate major in philosophy or a minimum of 24 units of upper division work in philosophy.
 - b. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 in upper division work in philosophy.
2. Admission with conditional classified graduate standing requires:
 - a. Twelve units of upper division work in philosophy.
 - b. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 in upper division work in philosophy.

Students admitted with a grade point average below 2.0 acquire classified graduate standing by completing sufficient units of upper division work in philosophy to yield a total, with previous work, of at least 24 such units. Units earned to complete this undergraduate requirement do not fulfill unit requirements for the master's degree. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 is required for all units attempted after admission.

Units earned to satisfy requirements for a major do not fulfill unit requirements for the master's degree. Other units *may* fulfill such requirements if earned in courses acceptable on master's degree programs in philosophy.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at <http://www.csumentor.edu> along with the \$55 application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials to SDSU Graduate Admissions.

Graduate Admissions

The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to:

Graduate Admissions
Enrollment Services
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

- (1) Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsecondary institutions attended;

Note:

- Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
- Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

- (2) GRE scores (<http://www.ets.org>, SDSU institution code 4682);

- (3) TOEFL score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (<http://www.ets.org>, SDSU institution code 4682).

Department of Philosophy

The following materials should be mailed or delivered to:

Department of Philosophy
(Attention: Steven L. Barbone)
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-8142

- (1) Letters of recommendation and/or writing samples are optional (and recommended for applicants with lower grade point averages or GRE scores).

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must meet the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as stated in Part Two of this bulletin.

In order to advance to candidacy, every graduate student must demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English. Appropriate languages may include both the formal languages of logic and mathematics and natural languages other than English (normally French, German, Greek, Latin, or Spanish). Students shall consult with the graduate adviser to determine which language is appropriate. Proficiency in a language shall be demonstrated by earning a grade of C or more in either (a) no fewer than two lower division courses in that language or (b) at least one upper division course in that language. All grades must be earned either while the student is a graduate student in the philosophy department or at an accredited college within five years prior to admission to the graduate program in philosophy. Appropriate examinations may be given when available.

Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

(Major Code: 15091)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master's degree as described in Part Two of this bulletin, the student must complete a program of 30 units of upper division and graduate courses selected with the approval of the graduate adviser.

Students must complete a minimum of 24 units from courses in philosophy listed below as acceptable on master's degree programs. The 24 units shall include (1) either 796 or 799A and (2) a minimum of 12 units but a maximum of 18 units in 600-numbered courses.

At the beginning of every fall semester, every graduate student must attend an orientation designed to familiarize students with the program and to facilitate community.

Students in the program may elect one of two plans, A or B, to complete the requirements for the degree. Plan A requires the writing of a thesis under Philosophy 799A as part of the outlined course program. If Plan B is elected, the student must pass a comprehensive examination, consisting of two written and one oral, and complete three units in Philosophy 796.

The master's examination shall be conducted by a committee of at least three members selected by the graduate adviser after consultation with the student. Each of the written parts of the examination will be based on a bibliography drawn up by the committee administering the examination after consultation with the student. The oral part of the examination will be in a specific problem area or on a major philosopher. At least three weeks prior to the end of the semester preceding the semester of the examination, the student will consult with his or her committee to determine the bibliographies for the written exams and the subject matter for the oral exam. This consultation must be completed no later than three days after the official close of the semester. A student will not be permitted to enroll in Philosophy 796 if this consultation has not been completed. The master's examination may be repeated only once.

As a requirement for graduation, every graduate student must orally present a paper to a public audience at SDSU. The paper must be based on work done by the student in the field of philosophy toward the satisfaction of his or her graduate degree requirements in the department. Students and the graduate adviser will arrange for the public presentation.

Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Program in Philosophy (PHIL)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

PHIL 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.

PHIL 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.

PHIL 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.

PHIL 510. Philosophy of Law (3)

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

Philosophical and ethical investigation into nature of law, rights, liberty, responsibility, and punishment.

PHIL 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.

PHIL 521. Deductive Logic (3) II

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.

PHIL 523. Theory of Knowledge (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

Philosophical analysis of knowledge, including conceptions of belief, justification, and truth.

PHIL 525. Metaphysics (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

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

PHIL 528. Theory of Ethics (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

Advanced topics in ethical theory, including normative ethics and meta-ethics. May include historical or contemporary readings or both. Issues may include content of moral value, nature of moral judgment, and accounts of virtue and right action.

PHIL 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.

PHIL 532. Philosophy of History (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

Accounts of historical development, historical change, and nature of historical explanation.

PHIL 535. Philosophy of Religion (3)

Prerequisite: Six units in philosophy.

Philosophical examination of issues raised by the religious impulse in man.

PHIL 536. Philosophy of Mind (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in philosophy.

Prominent theories and arguments regarding relation between mind and body. Varieties of dualism considered along with major materialist rivals.

PHIL 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.

PHIL 541. History of Aesthetics (3)

Prerequisite: Philosophy 101, 102 or 103.

Major documents in the history of aesthetics.

PHIL 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.

PHIL 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.

PHIL 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.

PHIL 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 nine 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.

PHIL 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

PHIL 600. Seminar in the History of Philosophy (3)

Prerequisite: Twelve upper division units in philosophy.

A major philosopher, school, or problem. Their historical roots and subsequent historical significance. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit nine units applicable to a master's degree.

PHIL 610. Seminar in Philosophical Problems: Values (3)

Prerequisite: Twelve upper division units in philosophy.

Problems in such fields as ethics, politics, aesthetics. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit nine units applicable to a master's degree.

PHIL 620. Seminar in Philosophical Problems: Knowledge and Reality (3)

Prerequisite: Twelve upper division units in philosophy.

A problem or group of problems in metaphysics, epistemology and logic. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit nine units applicable to a master's degree.

PHIL 630. Seminar in Current Philosophical Issues (3)

Prerequisite: Twelve upper division units in philosophy.

Problems in current philosophical publications. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit nine units applicable to a master's degree.

PHIL 696. Seminar in Selected Topics (3)

Prerequisite: Twelve upper division units in philosophy.

Intensive study in specific areas of philosophy. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit three units applicable to a master's degree. Maximum combined credit of nine units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

PHIL 796. Studies in Philosophy (1-3) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: An officially appointed examining committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation for the comprehensive examination for students taking the M.A. under Plan B. Maximum credit three units applicable to a master's degree.

PHIL 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisites: Twelve upper division units in philosophy and consent of staff; to be arranged with department chair and instructor.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

PHIL 799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a project or thesis for the master's degree.

PHIL 799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

PHIL 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.

Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master's degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.

Physical Education
Refer to "Kinesiology" in this section of the bulletin.