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Program Description
The program in Philosophy enables students to explore critically various systems of beliefs and values, to grapple with the foundations of their own beliefs and values, to develop habits of critical thinking, writing, and reading, and to use these skills to address real world problems. The Program offers two major tracks in Philosophy, a Pre-Law Concentration, and a minor in Philosophy. Program goals and objectives can be found on their website.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy

Total Units Required to Graduate 180 units

Major Requirements 66-76 units
- Prerequisites 10
- General Track 56
- Graduate School Track 66
- Pre-Law Concentration 56

Minor Requirement 20 units

Other University Requirements 62-92 units
- CSUB 101 2
- American Institutions 5-10*
- Area A 5-15*
- Area B 15
- Area C 15
- Area D 10-15*
- Theme 1 5
- Theme 2 0-5*
- Theme 3 5
- GRE 0-5*
- GWAR (Exam) or Class 0-5*

* may be satisfied in major, minor or other university requirement

Additional Units 2-32 units

See http://www.csub.edu/schedules.shtml for current list of courses satisfying university-wide requirements.

General Track (11 courses plus a minor)
PHIL 290, 350, 490
1. History of Western Philosophy. One (1) course required from: PHIL 302, 303, 304 or 305
2. Value Theory. One (1) course required from: PHIL 333, 411, 431 or 432
3. Metaphysics & Epistemology. One (1) course required from: PHIL 440, 441, 451 or 452
4. Electives (5 additional upper-division courses in philosophy) (25 units)
5. Minor (one of the following options) (20 units)
   a. A minor from another discipline.
   b. An interdisciplinary concentration or minor in one of the specially developed areas (see Interdisciplinary Concentrations and Minors).
   c. A special minor from other disciplines, approved by the student’s advisor and the AVP for Academic Programs.

Graduate School Track (13 courses plus a minor)
PHIL 290, 302, 303, 304, 305, 350, 432, 490
1. 20th and 21st Century Philosophy. Two (2) courses required from: PHIL 307, 308, 309, 310, 382, 406
2. Social and Political Philosophy. One (1) course required from: PHIL 333, 411, 435
3. Metaphysics and Epistemology. Two (2) courses required from: PHIL 440, 441, 451, 452
4. Minor (one of the following options) (20 units)
   a. A minor from another discipline.
   b. An interdisciplinary concentration or minor in one of the specially developed areas (see Interdisciplinary Concentrations and Minors).
   c. A special minor from other disciplines, approved by the student’s advisor and the AVP for Academic Programs.

Pre-Law Concentration (11 courses plus Special Minor for Pre-Law)
PHIL 290, 316, 350, 435, 490
1. History of Western Philosophy. One (1) course required from: PHIL 302, 303, 304, 305
2. Gender and Race. One (1) course required from: PHIL 381, 382
3. Value Theory. Two (2) courses required from: PHIL 333, 411, 431, 432
4. Metaphysics & Epistemology. One (1) course required from: PHIL 440, 441, 451, 452
5. Elective (1 additional upper division course in PHIL)
6. Special Minor for Pre-Law (4 courses) (20 units)
   a. Economics. Two (2) courses required: ECON 201 and 404
   b. Political Science. (Two (2) courses required from: PLSI 314, 315, 333, 370

Requirements for the Minor in Philosophy
The minor requires four courses, at least fifteen of which must be upper division.
PHILOSOPHY

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Note: One (1) quarter unit of credit normally represents one hour of in-class work and 2-3 hours of outside study per week.

Lower Division

PHIL 100 Introduction to Philosophy (5)
This course introduces students to philosophical methods and reasoning and examines some of the central issues in philosophy. Issues to be addressed include the kinds, sources, and tests of knowledge; the nature of reality, of self and of God; the sources of value and how values ought to inform our lives. GE C5

PHIL 101 Contemporary Moral Problems (5)
This course provides an overview of historical and recent ethics theory and concepts, and an examination of contemporary moral issues and dilemmas, such as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, affirmative action, animal rights and gender relationships. Emphasis is given to the relationship between theory and practice. GE C5

PHIL 102 Logical Reasoning (5)
This course is designed to develop critical thinking skills related to the analysis and evaluation of arguments. It involves analysis and criticism of deductive and inductive reasoning; an understanding of justification and evidence; and identification of fallacious arguments in various areas of inquiry. GE A3

PHIL 289 Experiential Prior Learning (variable units)
This course provides an evaluation and assessment of learning, which has occurred as a result of prior off-campus experience relevant to the curriculum of the department. It requires complementary academic study and/or documentation. Available by petition only, on a credit, no-credit basis, and is not open to postgraduate students. Interested students should contact the department office. This course may not be counted toward major or minor requirements.

PHIL 290 Orientation and Methods (5)
This course provides new and possible philosophy majors with an overview of the Philosophy major and practice in the methodology of good philosophical thinking and writing. The overview may include information about the requirements for the major, computer and information competency, academic and non-academic careers and graduate school (including financial issues). Practice in methodology will help you do research, to read philosophical texts carefully, discern extended arguments within a text, and write clearly and precisely.

PHIL 296/396 Human Corps Community Service I (variable units)
This course provides students with volunteer community service experience working with nonprofit, governmental, educational or community-based service organizations. Offered on a credit, no-credit basis only.

Upper Division

Note: All upper division courses in Philosophy carry as prerequisites PHIL 102 and ENGL 110 or equivalents, with PHIL 100 strongly recommended. Some courses also carry additional prerequisites. Any prerequisite may be waived with the consent of the instructor.

PHIL 302 History of Western Philosophy I (5)
This course traces the development of Western philosophy from its Greek origins through the Hellenistic period. It introduces the students to ancient debates and methods of inquiry about a number of issues in regards with the nature of reality, knowledge and morality. The survey starts with the fragments and testimonial of the early thinkers, also known as Pre-Socratic philosophers, moving to the more comprehensive works of Plato and Aristotle, and ending with the works of the Hellenistic period. GE T2

PHIL 303 History of Western Philosophy II (5)
This course explores the development of Western Philosophy from medieval philosophy through the Modern Rationalists, Descartes, Leibniz and Spinoza.

PHIL 304 History of Western Philosophy III (5)
This course explores the Modern period of Western philosophy, focusing on the Empiricists - primarily Locke, Berkeley and Hume - and the Critical Philosophy of Kant.

PHIL 305 History of Western Philosophy IV (5)
This course explores the history of Western philosophy from Kant through the influential philosophers of the nineteenth century.

PHIL 307 Analytic Philosophy (5)
This course examines the rise and development of analytic philosophy in the 20th century. Topics may include: the origins of analytic philosophy as a reaction against idealism; features distinguishing analytic philosophy from other philosophical traditions; various analytic 'schools', including logicism, logical atomism, logical positivism, philosophical naturalism, ordinary language philosophy, analytic metaphysics; and major figures in the tradition, including Frege, Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, Ayer, Quine, and Kripke.
PHIL 308 The American Philosophical Heritage (5)
This course focuses on philosophical ideas developed in the geographical context of America as a nation. Key ideas explored may include mind-body-self relationships; the nature of knowledge and inquiry; notions of community and power; freedom; democracy; and cultural pluralism; race, and gender; and the roles of science, religion, literature, and art in American philosophical thought. Individual thinkers studied may include Native American contributors, Jonathan Edwards, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Charles S. Peirce, William James, Josiah Royce, John Dewey, W.E. B. Du Bois, Alain Locke, and Jane Adams. GE T2

PHIL 309 Continental Philosophy (5)
This course provides a study of recent work within the Continental European tradition. Movements studied may include phenomenology, critical theory, structuralism, French feminism, hermeneutics, deconstruction, post structuralism, post-colonialism, and postmodernism. Prerequisites: ENGL 110 and a "C" or better in PHIL 102 or equivalents; completion of Area A.

PHIL 310 Existentialism (5)
Various types of existential philosophies are examined in the writings of nineteenth-century philosophers of existence such as Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, and of twentieth century exponents such as Heidegger, Sartre, Beauvoir, Camus, Buber, Fanon, and others. Concepts explored may include the meaning of freedom, the choice of values after the "death of God," relations between individual and society, embodiment and existential psychoanalysis. GE T2

PHIL 315 Philosophy, Technology and Our Future (5)
This course examines the nature of modern technology in relation to human goals and the quality of life, as well as the impact of its use on the biosphere. Emphasis shall be placed on the critical assessment of technologies in relation to the ethical, social, legal, and environmental questions they raise. Various philosophical perspectives on modern technology such as those of Heidegger, Borgmann, Feenberg, Ferré, and Latour may be considered.

PHIL 316 Professional Ethics (5)
This course will focus on the unique ethical issues and obligations attached to professional roles. Topics will include a definition of "profession," with discussion on how that status is distinguished from, for example, "occupation" and "craft;" theories and processes for ethical decision-making; discussion of special role-engendered ethical obligations; and consideration of the kinds of ethical dilemmas faced by persons in such fields as engineering, architecture, medicine, law, computer science, nursing, academia, and social work. (Additional recommended prerequisite: PHIL 100 or 101 or equivalent.) GE T2

PHIL/COMM 317 Ethical Issues in the Media (5)
This course provides an analysis of ethical issues in the news media, with emphasis on news-gathering and reporting and the impact of the internet, advertising, and entertainment. Topics covered include an evaluation of the ethical culture of newsrooms, codes of ethics, objectivity, privacy, fairness, honesty, and the public's right to know. Case studies will be examined, as well as other means by which students will learn how to recognize and resolve ethical conflicts. This is a writing intensive class. This course carries credit in Philosophy or Communications. Prerequisites: PHIL 102 and ENGL 110 or equivalents with a grade of “C” or better.

PHIL 318 Business Ethics (5)
This course will focus on the role ethical reasoning and decision-making plays in best business practices. Topics include a review of key ethics theories and a method for ethical decision-making; an analysis of the role of business in society and how that role has changed over time; a review of the role businesses play across political and cultural lines; a discussion of corporate culture and its impact on participants' conceptual schemes; an evaluation of how for-profit business practices fit within a commitment to social justice; and a discussion of the moral and legal status of corporations and whether they have specific moral duties, e.g., to protect the environment or to promote social welfare. The course will also address a range of workplace specific questions, including such topics as employer-employee and employee-employee relations, privacy, fair pay, conflict of interest, whistleblowing, and marketing. All these concerns will be evaluated within the contexts of both large corporations and small businesses. Required prerequisites: English 110 and Philosophy 102, or equivalents. Recommended prerequisite: PHIL 100 or 101 or equivalents; completion of Area A. Offered quarterly.

PHIL/PLSI 333 Political Philosophy and Thought (5)
This course examines various theories of the nature of social and political life. Significant contributions to Western political philosophy, such as those of Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Mill, Marx, and Rawls, will be examined along with the concepts of rights, equality, justice, obligation, liberty and utility. Additional readings may contribute to analysis of the development of political institutions and civil society in the West and their effects on non-European nations and cultures. This course carries credit in either PHIL or PLSI. GE T2
PHIL 342 Philosophy of Religion (5)
This course examines the nature of religion and religious experience, various conceptions of God, evidence for the existence of God including the classical arguments, faith and its relationship to knowledge, the problem of evil, meaning and the logical status of religious language, the possibility and nature of life after death and religious pluralism. GE T2

PHIL 343 Asian Philosophy (5)
This course provides an interpretive and comparative study of some of the major Asian philosophies, ancient through contemporary, and their relevance to contemporary issues and problems. Philosophies and figures to be investigated may include: Confucius, Mencius, and Hsun Tzu; Taoism: Lao Tzu and Chuang Tzu; Hinduism: the Upanishads, the Bhagavadgita, and the major Vedanta philosophies; and the various schools of Buddhism.

PHIL 350 Symbolic Logic (5)
The course is designed to develop our understanding of key logical concepts, such as validity, consistency, logical truth, and the distinction between syntax and semantics. A main aim of the course is to develop the ability to translate arguments from natural language into the formal languages of the propositional and predicate calculus, and then to use the formal proof system to determine the logical status of the argument.

INST 363 Personhood (10)
Psychological, philosophical and biological perspectives on the person as mind, body and brain will inform exploration of public policy issues such as those related to models of illness and wellness, health care, gender and sexuality, intelligence, and legal issues such as insanity plea, commitment, eyewitness testimony and spousal and child abuse. Prerequisite PHIL 100 or 101 and PSYC 100 or BIOL 100.

PHIL/RS 363 Philosophy and Religion in Literature (5)
This course examines philosophical and religious concepts discussed in novels, short stories, poetry, and dramatic literature that are intricately related to human nature. Such concepts include: self and self-realization, knowledge, morality, God, good and evil, afterlife, meaningfulness, friendship, love, and eros. A critical exploration of issues. Authors from various historical periods, cultures, and backgrounds will be included. This course carries credit in PHIL or RS. Prerequisites: ENGL 110 and a "C" or better in PHIL 102 or equivalents. GE T2

PHIL 375 Directed Reading (3)
This is a seminar style course in which students undertake a close reading of key works either from the history of philosophy or from contemporary material. Past selections have included Immanuel Kant's Critique of Judgment, Daniel Dennett's Elbow Room, Peter Singer's Re-thinking Life and Death, Michel Foucault's Discipline and Punish, and Martha Nussbaum's Upheavals of Thought. May be repeated for different course content.

PHIL 377 Special Studies in Philosophy (1-5)
Topics to be offered will be announced prior to registration, and may be repeated for different course content.

PHIL 380 Environmental Philosophy (5)
This course examines epistemological, ethical, and social questions concerning humanity's relationship with nature. Topics include the rights of animals and ecosystems, our obligations to future generations, anthropocentrism and biocentrism, the global economy and local economies, unsustainable and sustainable development, as well as the impact of modern technologies on the biosphere. Various philosophical perspectives, such as deep ecology, ecopsychology, and ecofeminism may be considered.

PHIL 381 Feminist Philosophy (5)
This course examines feminist theory and practice through the writings of historical and contemporary philosophers. Topics may include feminist revisions of the philosophical canon, analyses of oppression and critiques of patriarchy, critiques of sexism and homophobia, approaches to moral, legal, and social philosophy, approaches to ontology and epistemology, and analyses of sexuality, femininity, marriage, motherhood, prostitution, pornography, sexual violence, and social change. (Recommended prerequisite: INST 205.) This course also carries credit toward a minor in Women and Gender Studies. GRE

PHIL 382 Philosophy of Race (5)
This course examines the concept of race and the way race informs identity from both historical and contemporary sources. Topics discussed may include the reality of race, the origins of the concept, and the extent to which race does and should impact our social and personal identities. Other topics may include analysis of racism, the intersection of race with gender and/or class, and ethico-political issues surrounding race, such as affirmative action. GRE
PHIL 383 Philosophy of War (5)
This course is a philosophical examination of conceptual and moral issues relating to war. It discusses the Just War Tradition, and examines questions about violent events that count as war, when it is just to go to war, the means by which a war may be justly fought, and the virtue(s) of a warrior. Debates about responsibility, pacifism, and connection between religion and war may be discussed.

PHIL 396 Human Corps (5)

PHIL 406 Contemporary Issues in Philosophy (5)
This course will address those issues, movements, or figures at the forefront of current research in philosophy. Topics may include, but are not limited to, mind and consciousness, language and interpretation, the human condition, self and community, and value theory.

PHIL 411 Marx, Marxism and Post-Marxism (5)
This course engages the central ideas of Marxist philosophy, economics and social theory, both through the writings of Marx and others who contributed to the development of this tradition such as Engels, Lenin, Mao, Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Althusser and others. This study will also examine the relevance of Marxism since the fall of the USSR, through the writings of contemporary critical social theorists.

PHIL 431 Aesthetics (5)
This course investigates a variety of issues that arise from philosophical discussions on the nature of art. Possible questions to be explored include: Is there a proper definition of art? Should a piece of work be in agreement with current moral sensibilities in order to be recognized as art? Should it matter whether the creator of the work is human? Do the creator's intentions matter for a piece of art to be received or understood as art? Whose judgment counts whether the artwork is an excellent one of its type? Should it matter where, when, and by whom a piece of art is seen, if by anyone? To answer those questions, we will be reading the writings of philosophers who work either within the analytic tradition or the continental one. These works go as far back as the ancient Greek world and are as recent as the "digital revolution."

PHIL 432 Theories of Ethics (5)
This course provides a review of historical and contemporary theories of ethics, ranging from those of classical authors (such as Plato and Aristotle) to those of contemporary theorists (such as Gert and Hursthouse). Students will also analyze key ethical concepts, such as "the right and the good," "responsibility," "intentionality," and "consequences."

PHIL 435 Philosophy of Law (5)
This course addresses issues common to both philosophy and law through the study of legal theories such as Natural Law, Positivism. Legal Realism, Law and Economics, Feminist Jurisprudence, and Critical Race Theory. Attention will be paid to the nature, origin and scope of rights, the specifics of legal reasoning and constitutional law, and the roles played by the legal system in the contemporary world. Additional issues examined may include capital punishment, sex and gender discrimination, changes in tort law, and the growth of the prison industry or other selected topics.

PHIL 440 Metaphysics (5)
Metaphysics is inquiry into the fundamental nature of reality and the most general features of the world. Metaphysicians aim to make assertions that strictly and literally describe reality with no restrictions on intended reference. A central question of metaphysics is whether metaphysics so described is possible. Other questions that may be explored include: What is existence? Are there many worlds, or only one? Do universals (e.g., properties) exist? Do other abstract objects (e.g., numbers) exist? What is time? What is space? What are causes? What makes a thing (or person) remain the same thing (or person) despite change? Is free will an illusion? Does God exist?

PHIL 441 Self and Mind (5)
This course examines various theories of mind and their consequences for our understanding of the mind's relation to the body, the brain, behavior, consciousness, and the self. The course will also explore the possibility of nonhuman minds, such as those of animals and computers.

PHIL 451 Theories of Knowledge (5)
This course examines the nature, possibility, and limits of human knowledge. Topics may include skepticism, perception, logical and mathematical knowledge, self-knowledge, and various theories of justification, including foundationalism, coherentism, naturalism, and feminist epistemology.

PHIL 452 Philosophy of Science (5)
This course investigates philosophical questions concerning the rationality of scientific inquiry and the objectivity of scientific claims. Questions to be addressed include: What is the role of observation and experiment in evaluating scientific hypotheses? What does it take to be considered a legitimate science? What should a scientific theory include? Do correct scientific theories reveal the ultimate structure of reality? Is there scientific progress, or is that just how it seems to us? To what extent do cultural, social, and institutional factors influence science?
PHIL 477 Special Studies in Philosophy (1-5)
Topics for this course will be announced prior to registration, and may be repeated for different course content.

PHIL 489 Experiential Prior Learning (variable units)
This course provides evaluation and assessment of learning, which has occurred as a result of prior off-campus experience relevant to the curriculum of the department. It requires complementary academic study and/or documentation. This course is available by petition only, on a credit, no-credit basis. Not open to postgraduate students. Interested students should contact the department office. This course may not be counted toward major or minor requirements.

PHIL 490 Senior Seminar (6)
This is the capstone course of the major. Specific topics will vary, but all will involve bringing together the major areas of the discipline. Enrollment requires senior standing.

PHIL 496 Internship in Practical Philosophy (1-5)
This course involves supervised field experience in the community in applying specific philosophical skills in dealing with individuals and in community organizations and institutions. Career-oriented experience in the community setting is combined with academic activities in the college setting. Hours in the field, placement, and academic requirements such as conferences, readings, and reports are arranged in consultation with the work supervisor and faculty supervisor. Prerequisites vary depending on the specific internship, but enrollment is limited to students with good academic records who are committed to developing an understanding of the philosophical foundations of professional life.

PHIL 497 Cooperative Education (5)
The Cooperative Education program offers a sponsored learning experience in a work setting, integrated with a field analysis seminar. The Cooperative Education office contracts the field experience on an individual basis, subject to approval by the department. The field experience, including the seminar and reading assignments, is supervised by the cooperative education coordinator and the faculty liaison (or course instructor), working with the field supervisor. Students are expected to enroll in the course for at least two quarters. The determination of course credits, evaluation, and grading are the responsibility of the departmental faculty. This course is offered on a credit, no-credit basis only. The department will determine application of credit.

PHIL 498 Directed Study in the Instruction of Philosophy/Religious Studies (1-5)
Theory and method in undergraduate instruction in Philosophy/Religious Studies. Weekly meetings with faculty sponsor and supervised experience which may include developing and administering examinations or paper assignments, proctoring self-paced instructional units, course development, evaluation of student papers, lectures, leading class discussion and discussion groups, and in-depth directed readings of relevant topics. The course is repeatable and will be offered on a credit, no-credit basis only. Prerequisites: Senior (or graduate) standing; a grade of B or better in PHIL/RS 290; and consent of the instructor who will serve as sponsor.

PHIL 499 Individual Study (1-5)
This is an individual program of study with regular consultations and/or examinations as the instructor may require. Admission is contingent upon approval by the department chair.

PHIL 577 Special Studies in Philosophy (1-5)
Topics to be offered will be announced prior to registration. This course may be repeated for different course content. Enrollment in this course requires graduate level standing.

PHIL 580 Advanced Research Participation (1-5)
This course involves individual investigation under the supervision of an identified instructor. (Experience as a research or teaching assistant does not count for credit.) Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA and consent of department chair.

PHIL 599 Advanced Individual Study (1-5)
This course involves special projects developed by the individual in consultation with an identified instructor. Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA and consent of department chair.

PHIL 677 Special Studies in Philosophy (1-5)
Topics to be offered will be announced prior to registration. This course may be repeated for different course content. Enrollment in this course requires graduate level standing.