

Philosophy

IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

OFFICE: Arts and Letters 446

TELEPHONE: 619-594-5263

WEBSITE: <http://philosophy.sdsu.edu>

Faculty

Emeritus: Chaffin, Feenberg, Freeman, Moellendorf, Nelson, Rosenstein, Shields, Troxell, Warren, Weber, Weissman, Weston

Chair: Barbone

Professors: Atterton, Corlett, Francescotti, Wawrytko, Wheeler

Associate Professor: Barbone

Assistant Professors: Draz, Murdock, Stramondo

Lecturers: Neuner, Reyes

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.

Impacted Program

The philosophy major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the philosophy major, students must meet the following criteria:

- Complete preparation for the major;
- Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs website was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

Philosophy Major

With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences

(Major Code: 15091) (SIMS Code: 115301)

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 120.

Language Requirement. Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to section of catalog on "Graduation Requirements."

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

Major. A minimum of 27 upper division units in philosophy to include Philosophy 401A and 401B. No more than six units of 300-level philosophy courses will count toward the major.

Philosophy Minor

(SIMS Code: 115301)

The minor in philosophy consists of a minimum of 18 units in philosophy to include at least three lower division units and 15 upper division units. No more than six units of 300-level philosophy courses will count toward the minor.

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)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and University Policies sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

PHIL 101. Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics (3) [GE]

Philosophical inquiry, with emphasis on problems of moral value. Students are encouraged to think independently and formulate their own tentative conclusions concerning a variety of vital contemporary issues facing individuals and society.

PHIL 102. Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality (3) [GE]

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

PHIL 120. Introduction to Logic (3) [GE]

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

PHIL 140. Technology and Human Behavior (3) [GE]

Consequences of technology on our lives as integrated physiological, psychological, and social beings. Environmental problems associated with rapid development of technology. Responses to problems by various philosophers and writers.

PHIL 200. Critical Thinking and Composition (3) [GE]

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the SDSU Written Communication Assessment requirement and Africana Studies 120 or American Indian Studies 120 or Chicana or Chicano Studies 111B or Linguistics 100B or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100 [or English 100] or 105B. **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. (Formerly numbered Philosophy 110.)

PHIL 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.

PHIL 299. Special Study (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of department chair and instructor. Individual study.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

(Intended for Undergraduates)

PHIL 310. Philosophy and Human Nature (3) [GE]

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

PHIL 312. Women and Philosophy (3) [GE]

Exploration of women's contributions to philosophy, both present and historically. Concepts relating to women and femininity, both by the philosophical canon and by more recent feminist philosophers.

PHIL 315. Philosophy and Literature (3) [GE]

Study of literature of philosophical significance and of philosophical problems of literature. (Formerly numbered Philosophy 334.)

PHIL 325. A Major Philosophical Topic (3)

General introduction to a major philosophical topic (e.g. cosmopolitan justice, freedom of the will, the nature and existence of God, theory and evidence). Maximum credit six units.

PHIL 328. Philosophy, Racism, and Justice (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Philosophical concepts and theories of racism and racial justice. Arguments for and against such theories.

PHIL 329. Social Ethics (3) [GE]

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

PHIL 330. Biomedical Ethics (3) [GE]

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

PHIL 332. Environmental Ethics (3) [GE]
(Same course as Sustainability 332)

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.

PHIL 335. Philosophy of Business Ethics (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Moral status of business practices; arguments and theories regarding ways to run businesses and corporations; issues that arise in everyday practices of businesses. May not be taken in place of Management 444, required of Fowler College of Business majors.

PHIL 340. Morality of War and Peace (3) [GE]

Historical and contemporary arguments regarding morality of war, pacifism, and terrorism, with contemporary applications.

PHIL 341. Logic and the Law (3) [GE]

Logic in legal contexts. Inductive reasoning methods applied to legal briefs, case studies, and LSATs. Construction, presentation, and evaluation of written and oral arguments, using historical and contemporary legal decisions.

PHIL 342. Morality and the Law (3) [GE]

Understanding and application of the law via contemporary moral controversies in case law and legal practice.

PHIL 343. Ethics Bowl (3)

Interdisciplinary, case-study approach to contemporary ethical issues. Creative, critical thinking skills and theoretical ethical frameworks; present and defend positions in team debate. Required participation in mock competitions. Selected students participate in Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl California Regional Competition (possibly also National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl). Maximum credit six units.

PHIL 344. Global Justice (3) [GE]

Current debates in political philosophy concerning the justification, content, and scope of duties of global justice to include distributive justice, nationalism vs. cosmopolitanism, morality of immigration controls, justification of human rights, and limits of sovereignty.

PHIL 351. Chinese Philosophy (3) [GE]
(Same course as Asian Studies 351)

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

PHIL 353. Buddhist Philosophy (3) [GE]

Intellectual traditions within Buddhism, both ancient and contemporary, including key areas of metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology.

PHIL 360. Contemporary Brazilian Philosophers (3)

Contemporary Brazilian philosophers and their relevance to Brazilian culture and politics.

PHIL 401A. History of Philosophy: Pre-Socratic through Medieval (3)

From Pre-Socratic through Medieval. Not open to students with credit in Philosophy 411 and 412.

PHIL 401B. History of Philosophy: Renaissance and Early Modern (3)

Renaissance and early modern philosophy. Not open to students with credit in Philosophy 412 and 413.

PHIL 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.

PHIL 499. Special Study (1-3)

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)

PHIL 505. Nineteenth-Century European Philosophy (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing. Major European philosophers of the nineteenth century. May include Hegel, Kierkegaard, Marx, Mill, Nietzsche, and Schopenhauer. (Formerly numbered Philosophy 414.)

PHIL 506. Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing. Major figures and movements in European philosophy from Husserl to the present.

PHIL 508. Existentialism (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing. The philosophical aspects of existentialism. Major emphasis is on the diversity of thought within a common approach as this is shown in individual thinkers.

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PHIL 509. Theory of Ethics (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

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. (Formerly numbered Philosophy 528.)

PHIL 510. Philosophy of Law (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

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

PHIL 512. Political Philosophy (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

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

PHIL 514. Philosophy of Art (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

The nature of aesthetic experience. Principal Western theories of art in relation to actual artistic production and to the function of art in society. (Formerly numbered Philosophy 542.)

PHIL 515. Philosophy of Film (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

Investigation into metaphysical, aesthetic, and epistemological dimensions of film. Narration, authorship, cognitive and emotional engagement, social and philosophical ramifications.

PHIL 516. Non-Western Aesthetics (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

How non-Western cultures developed aesthetic theories complementing, challenging, or expanding more familiar Amero-eurocentric theories. Historical and contemporary works representing a spectrum of non-Western philosophies.

PHIL 521. Deductive Logic (3)

Prerequisite: 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: Upper division or graduate standing.

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

PHIL 530. Metaphysics (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

Prominent theories of reality, e.g., realism and nominalism, materialism and idealism, teleology and determinism. (Formerly numbered Philosophy 525.)

PHIL 534. Philosophy of Language (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

An introduction to theories of meaning for natural languages and formal systems; concepts of truth, synonymy and analyticity; related epistemological and ontological problems. (Formerly numbered Philosophy 531.)

PHIL 535. Philosophy of Religion (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

Philosophical analysis of the nature and existence of God.

PHIL 536. Philosophy of Mind (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

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: Upper division or graduate standing.

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

PHIL 538. Neuroethics (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

Morally salient features of brain science and development and application of neurotechnology.

PHIL 555. Empirical Perspectives of Buddhism (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing. Recommended: Philosophy 353.

Historical and contemporary Buddhist scholarship and practice.

PHIL 565. Asian Philosophies (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

Dimensions of Asian philosophies, past and present. Encounter between Buddhism and post-modern science, contemporary Asian philosophers ("global gurus") and their impact on non-Asian cultures, enigmatic notion of emptiness (*sunya*, *wu*). See *Class Schedule* for specific topic. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units.

PHIL 575. A Major Philosopher (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

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 576. A Major Philosophical Tradition (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

Focused study of a major philosophical tradition (e.g., Platonism, Confucianism, positivism). 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 577. A Major Philosophical Problem (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

Focused study of a major philosophical problem (e.g., the problem of evil, the problem of other minds, the existence of God). 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 578. Philosophical Methods (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

Focused study of major philosophical methods (e.g., uncertain inferences and non-bivalent logics, phenomenological method, deconstruction). 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: Upper division or graduate standing.

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. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

PHIL 599. Special Study (1-3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

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 the *Graduate Bulletin*.