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# Philosophy

In the College of Arts and Letters

**OFFICE: Arts and Letters 446**

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

## Faculty

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

Chair: Wheeler

Professors: Corlett, Moellendorf, Weber, Weston

Associate Professors: Atterton, Barbone, Chaffin, Francescotti, Wawrytko, Wheeler

Lecturers: Anderson, Freeman, Reyes, Schlesinger

## 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.

## Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs Web site 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)**

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.

**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 Proficiency Assessment with a score of 10 or above 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 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)

*Refer to Curricula and Courses 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 103. Historical Introduction to Philosophy (3) [GE]

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

PHIL

### **PHIL 110. Critical Thinking and Composition (3) [GE]**

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the English Placement Test and Writing Competency requirements and Africana Studies 120 or American Indian Studies 120 or Chicana or Chicano Studies 111B or English 100 or General Studies 260A or Linguistics 100 or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100 or 101. **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.

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

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.

### **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.

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

### **PHIL 305. Classics of Western Philosophy (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning 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.

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

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

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

### **PHIL 329. Social Ethics (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning 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.

### **PHIL 330. Medical Ethics (3) [GE]**

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

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

### **PHIL 332. Environmental Ethics (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning 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.

### **PHIL 333. Philosophy of Technology (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning 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.

### **PHIL 334. Philosophy and Literature (3) [GE]**

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

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

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

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

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

### **PHIL 351. Chinese Philosophy (3) [GE]**

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

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]**

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

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

### **PHIL 375. Symposium in Philosophy (3)**

Prerequisite: Three units in philosophy.

Different philosophers from different areas in philosophy (e.g. metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics) present series of 13 to 15 lectures on one particular issue (e.g. Darwinism, free will, war and peace). May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units.

### **PHIL 411. Ancient Western Philosophy (3)**

Prerequisite: Three units in philosophy.

Ancient western philosophy through the third century A.D.

### **PHIL 412. Medieval Philosophy (3)**

Prerequisite: Three units in philosophy.

European, Arabic, and Jewish philosophies from the fourth to the fifteenth centuries.

### **PHIL 413. Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy (3)**

Prerequisite: Three units in philosophy.

European philosophy from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries.

### **PHIL 414. Nineteenth Century European Philosophy (3)**

Prerequisite: Three units in philosophy.

European philosophy in the nineteenth century.

### **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 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)**

Prerequisites: 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)**

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)**

Prerequisites: 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 565. Asian Philosophies (3)**

Prerequisite: Philosophy 351 or Philosophy 353.  
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: 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. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

**PHIL 599. Special Study (1-3)**

Prerequisites: 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.

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**GRADUATE COURSES**  
**Refer to the *Graduate Bulletin*.**