

BEFORE ENROLLING IN DEGREE APPLICABLE COURSES, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU COMPLETE ENGL 001A AND READ 053.

PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

DIVISION: Liberal Studies
 DEAN: Tim Karas
 DIVISION CHAIR: Keith Johnson
 DEPARTMENT: Philosophy
 DEPT CHAIR: Jeff Cormier
 PHONE: 408-855-5483
 COUNSELING: 408-855-5030

Philosophy, the original home of the sciences, is an attempt at comprehensive understanding. Among the perennial questions philosophy investigates are the nature of reality, human knowledge, the nature of mind, morality and the good life, etc. In this investigation, philosophy uses not only historical insights but also logical and conceptual methods.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The Philosophy Department at Mission College's central aim is to inculcate in students a rational outlook and an appreciation of the role of philosophy in human history. Upon completion of the Department's core courses, students will be able to:

1. analyze, research, and write a thesis defense paper;
2. construct and apply different types of argument in clarifying, defending, and refuting a philosophical position;
3. identify and evaluate both the connections between some concepts in epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics, and the implications these concepts entail for human existence;
4. test for validity quantificational and truth functional arguments, construct elementary formal proofs in truth functional logic, and reconstruct the logic of a scientific experiment; and
5. state and discuss the fundamental relations between different philosophical traditions and the world's enduring civilizations (Western, East-Asian, and South-Asian).

Students will be assessed through written exercises, written exams, quizzes, oral presentations and papers.

Academic Preparation and Career Paths:

Undergraduate training in philosophy seeks to inculcate and develop higher-level cognitive abilities that are excellent preparation for graduate and professional study. In GRE exams, philosophy undergraduates, when compared with undergraduates from other disciplines, have consistently obtained the highest verbal scores.

Training in philosophy also enables students to pursue numerous career paths. Below are some career options open to philosophy students:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| • Administrator | • Anthropologist | • Archivist |
| • Author/ Lecturer | • Business | • Columnist |
| • Crypanalyst | • Drama Critic | • Editor |
| • Editorial Assistant | • Editorial Writer | • Educator |
| • Essayist | • Foreign Correspondent | |
| • Foreign Service Officer | • High School Teacher | |
| • Information Scientist | • Journalist | • Lawyer |
| • Management | • Museum Curator | |
| • News Editor | • Personnel Manager | • Playwright |
| • Priest | • Psychologist | • Publisher |
| • Rabbi | • Scientific Researcher | • Social Worker |
| • Tour Guide | | |

Department Focus

As enrollment and funding increase, the Department plans to offer more courses. The focus of the Department is to provide students with rigorous preparation in ethics, critical thinking, and writing.

Philosophy and Academic Requirements:

For transfer students to the University of California and California State University

- The following IGETC-approved courses meet the Critical Thinking requirement under Area 1, English Communication:

- PHIL 003..... Introduction to Problems in Ethics
- PHIL 017..... Logic and Critical Thinking

- The following courses meet the Oral and Written Communication requirement for the California State University transfer students:

- PHIL 002..... Introduction to Logic
- PHIL 003..... Introduction to Problems in Ethics
- PHIL 009..... Introduction to Symbolic Logic
- PHIL 017..... Logic and Critical Thinking

- The following courses meet the Humanities requirement for California State University Students:

- PHIL 001..... Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 004..... Patterns in Comparative Religion
- PHIL 005..... Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy
- PHIL 007..... Introduction to Philosophy of Science
- PHIL 009..... Introduction to Symbolic Logic
- PHIL 010..... Introduction to the Philosophy of Art

- For Associate in Arts (A.A.) students and Associate in Science (A.S.) students:

- PHIL 002, 003, 009, 017

- The following courses meet the Humanities requirement for A.A. and A.S. students:

- PHIL 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 007, 008, 009, 010, 017

Scholarship Awards

To recognize the value of philosophy education, every year the Philosophy Department awards up to two scholarships to promising students.

PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

001 • INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

3.0 units

Total Lecture 54 hours

Acceptable for credit: University of California, California State University

This course is an introduction to some philosophical problems and the various approaches to their solutions. The student is exposed to selected traditional philosophical systems with emphasis upon how these systems are relevant to solving the problems of contemporary existence. Among the questions explored in the course are: What is reality? What is the nature of human beings? What makes an act right or wrong? Are human actions free or determined? What is knowledge? Can we distinguish science from pseudo-science? Is suffering compatible with the existence of God? *This course may also be offered via distance learning. Pass/No Pass Option.*

002 • INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

3.0 units

Total Lecture 54 hours

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 001A and READ 053

Acceptable for credit: University of California, California State University

This course is an introduction to the problems and techniques of traditional and modern logic comprising both deductive and inductive inference. The student learns to distinguish arguments from non-arguments, to identify and avoid common fallacies in reasoning, to test for validity both truth functional arguments and categorical syllogisms, to construct simple formal proofs of validity in truth-functional logic, and to understand the nature of inductive reasoning. This course may be offered via distance learning. *Pass/No Pass Option.*

003 • INTRODUCTION TO PROBLEMS IN ETHICS

3.0 units

Total Lecture 54 hours

Advisory: READ 053

Prerequisite: ENGL 001A

Acceptable for credit: University of California, California State University

This course critically examines questions of value and obligation. The course will explore the ethical theories of Aristotle, Confucius, Buddha, Kant, and the utilitarians. The student will apply these ethical theories to case studies in bioethics, sexism, racism, and environmental ethics. Much of the course is devoted to critical thinking and writing skills. The course requires the student to write a sequence of ethical "position papers," which are evaluated for both quality of analysis and English composition skills. *Pass/No Pass Option.*

PHILOSOPHY

BEFORE ENROLLING IN DEGREE APPLICABLE COURSES, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU COMPLETE ENGL 001A AND READ 053.

004 • PATTERNS IN COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS 3.0 units

Total Lecture 54 hours

Acceptable for credit: University of California, California State University

This course is an introduction to the critical, comparative study of religion. The student will be introduced to the responses offered by various religions to perennial problems of human life with emphasis upon the relevance of religious experience to contemporary existence. *Pass/No Pass Option.*

005 • INTRO TO SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY 3.0 units

Total Lecture 54 hours

Acceptable for credit: University of California, California State University

This course will introduce students to a critical study of some major social and political problems: What is society? What is a state? What is freedom? What is authority? What is the nature of political obligation? What constitutes justice? What constitutes a right? What are the relationships, if any, between the individual and society? *Pass/No Pass Option.*

007 • INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE 3.0 units

Total Lecture 54 hours

Acceptable for credit: University of California, California State University

This course is of special interest to students of the sciences. The course will introduce the student to a critical examination of some problems in the philosophy of science: (1) What is causality? (2) What counts as an explanation in science? (3) How is explanation different from prediction? (4) What is the nature of evidence? (5) What are the relationships between a scientific theory and the world? *Pass/No Pass Option.*

008 • INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN PHILOSOPHY 3.0 units

Total Lecture 54 hours

Acceptable for credit: University of California, California State University

This course is an introductory survey of the main philosophical currents of the thought of India, China, and Japan. The student will be encouraged to explore the answers offered by Asian philosophers to such questions as: What is ultimate reality? What is the self? How is personal freedom to be achieved? This course will be of particular interest to students who encounter elements of Asian thought in art, music, history and other disciplines and who are interested in understanding the intellectual forces which have shaped the cultures of Asia. *Pass/No Pass Option.*

009 • INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC 3.0 units

Total Lecture 54 hours

Acceptable for credit: University of California, California State University

This course is an introduction to the concepts and methods of modern symbolic logic, both sentential and quantificational. The student will learn to do truth value analysis of statements, translate complex natural-language arguments into both sentential and quantificational logic, construct advanced formal proofs of validity in both sentential and quantificational logic, and explore the metalogical issues of consistency and completeness of formal systems. The relevance of symbolic logic to areas such as set theory and computer science will also be explored. *Pass/No Pass Option.*

010 • INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF ART 3.0 units

Total Lecture 54 hours

Acceptable for credit: University of California, California State University

This course investigates the following questions: 1) What, if any, constitutes a work of art? 2) What are the relationships, if any, between art and life? 3) Is there any rational procedure, if any, for evaluating a work of art? The student will be invited to investigate these questions as they relate to various forms such as poetry, music, drama, and the like. Other questions in the philosophy of art may also be considered to respond to students' interests. *Pass/No Pass Option.*

017 • LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING 3.0 units

Total Lecture 54 hours

Advisory: READ 053

Prerequisite: ENGL 001A

Acceptable for credit: University of California, California State University

This course is an introduction to critical thinking and critical writing. The student will learn techniques of practical reasoning and argumentation, with emphasis on the application of these techniques in the writing of a sequence of argumentative essays. Topics include: analytical reading, argument analysis, recognizing propaganda and stereotypes, clarifying ambiguity, meaning and definition, evaluating evidence, logical correctness vs. factual correctness, and common fallacies in reasoning (both formal and informal). Analytical reading strategies are emphasized. Sample arguments for analysis are drawn from readings in philosophy and from culturally diverse sources in other fields. *Pass/No Pass Option.*