Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY – PHILO

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Applied and Fine Arts Division
Business and Foreign Language Building, Room 204

Possible career opportunities
For those who wish for a career in philosophy, teaching and research at the university level is an attractive option. There is also an emerging demand for experts in applied ethics, especially in the areas of medical, business, environmental ethics, law, politics and information technology. Most career options will require an advanced degree.

Program-level student learning outcomes
Program learning outcomes are subject to change. The most current list of program learning outcomes for each program is published on the DVC website at www.dvc.edu/slo.

Associate in arts degree in philosophy
Students completing the program will be able to...
A. use their critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate both formally and informally, arguments and positions taken regarding various philosophical topics.
B. compare and contrast various philosophical perspectives, both historically and in the context of larger philosophical texts.
C. recognize and explain the integration of philosophical perspectives and ideas in selected cultural, historical, and thematic contexts.
D. demonstrate their ability to articulate clearly in oral and written form an objective analysis of major works from the various philosophic and religious literatures.

The Philosophy Department views critical thinking and reflection about distinctively human issues to be central to human existence and well-being. Students able to think and articulate viewpoints clearly and in an informed fashion not only enhance their own life, but contribute significantly to interpersonal relationships and social existence, including in the realm of political, economic, cultural, and social institutions.

The program prepares students with effective thinking and communication skills, which are useful in many fields including business, sales, writing, teaching, legal profession, political campaigning, news reporting, and other fields in which critical thinking and eloquent articulation of viewpoints is required.

Although this program is not designed as a transfer program, selected courses in the program do meet general education and lower division requirements for the bachelor of arts degree at many California State University and University of California campuses. Consult with department faculty and the counseling department for more information. DVC philosophy students who intend to transfer must consult with a program adviser or counselor to ensure that the requirements for transfer to the baccalaureate institution of their choice are met.

Students who intend to transfer area advised to select either General Education Option 2 (IGETC) or Option 3 (CSU GE). General Education Option 1 (DVC General Education) is appropriate for students who do not intend to transfer.

To earn an associate in arts degree with a major in philosophy, students must complete five core courses (15 units total) supplemented by a set of restricted electives from which students select one course (3 units). Students must complete each course used to meet a major requirement with a grade of “C” or higher and also maintain an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher in the coursework required for the major. Certain courses may satisfy both major and general education requirements; however, the units are only counted once.

major requirements:  units
PHILO-120 Introduction to Philosophy ........................................ 3
PHILO-122 Introduction to Ethics ........................................ 3
PHILO-130* Logic and Critical Thinking ..................................... 3
PHILO-224 History of Western Philosophy: Pre-Socratic to Medieval Period ........................................ 3
PHILO-225 History of Western Philosophy: Descartes to Present .................................................. 3

plus at least 3 units from:
PHILO-140 Introduction to Judeo-Christian Tradition ........ 3
PHILO-141 Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion .......... 3
PHILO-160 Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy ........................................ 3
PHILO-220 Comparative Religion ........................................ 3

total minimum units for the major 18

*This course has a prerequisite of ENGL-122/122A.
Philosophy

Associate in arts in philosophy for transfer

Students completing the program will be able to...

A. use their critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate both formally and informally, arguments and positions taken regarding various philosophical topics.

B. compare and contrast various philosophical perspectives, both historically and in the context of larger philosophical texts.

C. recognize and explain the integration of philosophical perspectives and ideas in selected cultural, historical, and thematic contexts.

D. demonstrate their ability to articulate clearly in oral and written form an objective analysis of major works from the various philosophic and religious literatures.

The humanities and philosophy department views critical thinking and reflection about distinctively human issues to be central to human existence and well-being. Students who are able to think and articulate viewpoints clearly and in an informed fashion not only enhance their own lives, but contribute significantly to interpersonal relationships and social existence, including in the realm of political, economic, cultural, and social institutions.

The associate in arts in philosophy for transfer is intended for students who plan to complete a bachelor’s degree in a similar major at a CSU campus. Students completing this degree are guaranteed admission to the CSU system, but not to a particular campus or major. The associate in arts in philosophy for transfer is consistent with the mission of the community college to assist students in achieving a seamless transfer to the CSU system.

In order to earn the degree, students must:

- Complete 60 CSU-transferable units.
- Complete the California State University-General Education-Breadth pattern (CSU GE-Breadth); or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) pattern, including the Area IC requirement for Oral Communication.
- Complete a minimum of 18 units in the major.
- Attain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.
- Earn a grade of “C” or higher in all courses required for the major.

Students transferring to a CSU campus that accepts the degree will be required to complete no more than 60 units after transfer to earn a bachelor’s degree. This degree may not be the best option for students intending to transfer to a particular CSU campus or to a university or college that is not part of the CSU system, or those students who do not intend to transfer.

Students must complete each course used to meet a major requirement with a “C” grade or higher. Some courses in the major satisfy both major and CSUGE/IGETC general education requirements; however, the units are only counted once toward the 60 unit requirement for an associate degree. Some variations in requirements may exist at certain four-year institutions; therefore, students who intend to transfer are advised to refer to the catalog of the prospective transfer institution and consult a counselor.

major requirements:

at least 3 units from:  
PHILO-120 Introduction to Philosophy ......................... 3
PHILO-122 Introduction to Ethics .................................. 3

plus at least 3 units from:  
PHILO-170 Symbolic Logic ........................................... 3

plus at least 3 units from any course above not already used or:
PHILO-224 History of Western Philosophy: Pre-Socratic to Medieval Period ........................................ 3
PHILO-225 History of Western Philosophy: Descartes to Present ..................................................... 3

plus at least 6 units from any course above not already used or:
PHILO-141 Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion ....... 3

plus at least 3 units from any course above not already used or:
PHILO-160 Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy .............................................................. 3
PHILO-220 Comparative Religions .................................. 3

total minimum units for the major 18

*This course has a prerequisite of ENGL-122/122A.

Certificate of achievement

Philosophy

Students completing the program will be able to...

A. use their critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate both formally and informally, arguments and positions taken regarding various philosophical topics.

B. compare and contrast various philosophical perspectives, both historically and in the context of larger philosophical texts.

C. recognize and explain the integration of philosophical perspectives and ideas in selected cultural, historical, and thematic contexts.

D. demonstrate their ability to articulate clearly in oral and written form an objective analysis of major works from the various philosophic and religious literatures.

To earn a certificate of achievement in philosophy, students must complete four core courses (12 units). The certificate program courses also count towards the “major” that is required for the associate in arts degree in philosophy.

required courses:  
PHILO-120 Introduction to Philosophy ......................... 3
PHILO-122 Introduction to Ethics .................................. 3
PHILO-170 Symbolic Logic ........................................... 3
PHILO-224 History of Western Philosophy: Pre-Socratic to Medieval Period ........................................ 3

total minimum required units 12

*This course has a prerequisite of ENGL-122/122A.
## Philosophy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILO-120</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>This course carefully and critically examines the most basic of human beliefs. Logic, epistemology, metaphysics, value theory (ethics and aesthetics), and philosophy of religion are explored at an introductory level. The vocabulary of philosophy and techniques of inquiry are included. C-ID PHIL 100, CSU, UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILO-122</td>
<td>Introduction to Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>This course is a systematic examination of major ethical theories, the nature of moral reasoning, as well as the evaluation of contemporary moral issues such as abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment. C-ID PHIL 120, CSU, UC</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHILO-130</td>
<td>Logic and Critical Thinking</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>This course introduces students to the principles of inductive and deductive inference and their practical applications in everyday situations such as problem solving and evaluation of arguments. The uses of language, formal and informal fallacies, syllogistic argument forms and scientific method will be examined. Additional emphasis is placed on developing the ability to integrate the principles of critical thinking with the techniques of effective written argument. C-ID PHIL 110, CSU, UC</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHILO-140</td>
<td>Introduction to Judeo-Christian Tradition</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>This course presents a critical examination of history, theology, literature, and traditions of Judaism and Christianity. C-ID PHIL 140, CSU, UC</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHILO-141</td>
<td>Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>This course presents an introduction to the nature of religion. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of central themes including revelation, faith, and miracles and issues such as the problem of evil, and the relationship between religion and science. CSU, UC</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHILO-145</td>
<td>Introduction to Asian Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>This course presents an introduction to the major philosophies of Asia. Topics include the primary philosophies of India, China, and Japan. Emphasis will be on the metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical traditions in India, China, and Japan. CSU, UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILO-150</td>
<td>Topics in Philosophy</td>
<td>.3-.4</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>A supplemental course in philosophy to provide a study of current concepts and problems in philosophy and related subdivisions. Specific topics will be announced in the schedule of classes. CSU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILO-160</td>
<td>Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>This course is an introduction to the major authors, central issues, and political and philosophical perspectives as presented through classical and contemporary reading selections. Philosophers studied include Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Mill, Rawls and Nozick. Topics include the nature of democracy, fascism, justice, rights, law, liberty, political authority, political principles, and consequences, with an emphasis on understanding these political theories as normative rather than descriptive. Critical analysis of each perspective in political philosophy will be engaged. CSU, UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILO-170</td>
<td>Symbolic Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>This course introduces the principles of valid deductive reasoning and includes a study of formal techniques of sentential and predicate logic. Students will learn how to use truth-tables for propositional connectives and interpretations for statements of first-order logic using mathematical theory. The conclusion of the course will engage students in issues such as the completeness of propositional calculus, ifuzzy logic, and deontic logic. C-ID PHIL 210, CSU, UC</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHILO-220</td>
<td>Comparative Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>In this course, religious belief, experience, and ethical teachings of living religions of the world are examined, discussed and compared. Religions, which may be discussed, include Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. CSU, UC</td>
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</tbody>
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PHILO-224  History of Western Philosophy: Pre-Socratic to Medieval Period
3 units  SC
• 54 hours lecture per term
• Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent
This course examines ancient philosophy with emphasis on the development of Greek philosophy from the Pre-Socratics through Aristotle and may also include Hellenistic, Roman, medieval or non-western thinkers. C-ID PHIL 130, CSU, UC

PHILO-225  History of Western Philosophy: Descartes to Present
3 units  SC
• 54 hours lecture per term
• Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent
This course examines continental rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz), British empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, and Hume), Kant, 19th century and 20th century philosophy. C-ID PHIL 140, CSU, UC

PHILO-298  Independent Study
.5-3 units  SC
• Variable hours
• Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent
• Note: Submission of acceptable educational contract to department and Instruction Office is required.
This course is designed for advanced students who wish to conduct additional research, a special project, or learning activities in a specific discipline/subject area and is not intended to replace an existing course. The student and instructor develop a written contract that includes objectives to be achieved, activities and procedures to accomplish the study project, and the means by which the supervising instructor may assess accomplishment. CSU

PHILO-299  Student Instructional Assistant
.5-3 units  SC
• Variable hours
• Note: Applications must be approved through the Instruction Office. Students must be supervised by a DVC instructor.
Students work as instructional assistants, lab assistants and research assistants in this department. The instructional assistants function as group discussion leaders, meet and assist students with problems and projects, or help instructors by setting up laboratory or demonstration apparatus. Students may not assist in course sections in which they are currently enrolled. CSU