

## 2011-13 Cal Poly Catalog

### Philosophy Department

#### PHIL–PHILOSOPHY

##### PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy (4)

Foundational methods and central issues in contemporary philosophy including logic, epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. Required of all philosophy majors. Open to all majors and philosophy minors. 4 lectures. NOTE: This is not a GE course and will not count for GE credit.

##### PHIL 126 Logic and Argumentative Writing (4) GE A3

Principles of argument analysis, evaluation and construction. Deductive and inductive reasoning, including analogical arguments, universal and statistical generalizations, and causal inferences. Principles of organizing and writing argumentative essays. Moral dimensions of rational discourse. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A1 with a C- or better, or consent of instructor. Fulfills GE A3.

##### PHIL 230 Philosophical Classics: Knowledge and Reality (4) GE C2

Critical examination of primary philosophical texts, from the ancient and modern periods, with focus on the nature of reality, and the sources and limits of human knowledge. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A. *Crosslisted as HNRS/PHIL 230.* Fulfills GE C2.

##### PHIL 231 Philosophical Classics: Ethics and Political Philosophy (4) GE C2

Readings from primary philosophical texts, from the ancient and modern periods, with focus on the identification, evaluation and contemporary relevance of the central ethical and political themes and arguments presented in them. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A. *Crosslisted as HNRS/PHIL 231.* Fulfills GE C2.

##### PHIL 241, 242 Symbolic Logic I, II (4) (4)

The nature of deductive logical systems. Methods of notation, translation and proof in sentential and predicate calculi including truth-trees and natural deduction systems. Introduction to meta-theory. 4 lectures. **PHIL 241** prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A3. **PHIL 242** prerequisite: PHIL 241 with a grade of C- or better or consent of instructor.

##### PHIL 270 Selected Topics (1–4)

Directed group study of selected topics. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.

##### PHIL 311 Greek Philosophy (4) GE C4

Beginnings of Western philosophy and science. The Presocratics, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 312 Medieval Philosophy (4) GE C4

Development of Western philosophy from Augustine to Ockham, including Anselm, Abelard, Roger Bacon, Bonaventure, Aquinas, and Duns Scotus. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 313 Early Modern Rationalism (4) GE C4

Development of Western philosophy from the late Renaissance through Leibniz, with special emphasis upon the epistemology and metaphysics of the Continental Rationalists. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 314 Early Modern Empiricism (4) GE C4

Development of Western philosophy from the Renaissance through Mill, with special emphasis on British Empiricism. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 315 Kant and 19<sup>th</sup> Century European Philosophy (4) GE C4

Primary issues and concepts found in German philosophy from 1780 to 1900, with emphasis on Kant, Hegel, and Nietzsche. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors. (*Corrected 7/18/12*)

##### PHIL 316 20<sup>th</sup> Century European Philosophy (4) GE C4

Recent movements within the Continental tradition, including French and German existentialism, phenomenology, and post-metaphysical philosophy. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 317 History of Analytic Philosophy (4) GE C4

Major developments within 20<sup>th</sup> century British and American philosophy, with focus chiefly around Analytic philosophy. Other schools, such as Pragmatism, may be included, as may some philosophers outside of Britain and America whose work was influential in those countries. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 320 Asian Philosophy (4) GE C4

Philosophies developed in India, South Asia, China and Japan, including the logical and epistemological presuppositions of the Six Schools of Hindu metaphysics, Buddhist philosophy, Confucian moral philosophy, Taoist metaphysics and social ecology. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 321 Philosophy of Science (4) GE C4

The rational foundations of inquiry and explanation in the physical, biological and social sciences. Justification of scientific claims, the difference between science and pseudoscience, the relationship between science and other fields of investigation. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 322 Philosophy of Technology (4) GE C4

Analyses of the philosophical foundations and implications of technology. Technology and the human condition, technology and philosophical ethics, technology and political philosophy, technology and the metaphysics of human nature, and the relationship between science and technology. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 331 Ethics (4) GE C4

Analyses of various traditional and contemporary positions on the difference between right and wrong, if there is one. Theories of metaethics and normative ethics including the divine command theory, relativism, intuitionism, noncognitivism, virtue ethics, egoism, utilitarianism and duty-based ethics. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 332 History of Ethics (4) GE C4

The history of moral thought from Homer and the Pre-Socratics to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and focus on theories of moral goodness and rightness of action. Related issues and areas of thought, e.g. metaphysics, theology, science, politics, psychology freedom/determinism to be considered, where they shed light on moral thought. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 333 Political Philosophy (4) GE C4

Analyses of the philosophical foundations of political ideologies, including theories of political authority, legitimacy, obligation, and rights, and of the proper function of the state, and the relation of these theories to issues in metaphysics, theory of knowledge, and ethics. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 334 Philosophy of Law (4) GE C4

Normative and analytic questions about law. Nature of law and legal systems. Justification of law. Moral obligation to obey the law. Nature and justification of punishment. Guilt and legal responsibility. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

##### PHIL 335 Social Ethics (4) GE C4 USCP

Examination of contemporary moral problems, solutions to these problems, and the arguments for these solutions, with emphasis on two or more of the following sample problem areas: abortion, suicide and euthanasia, capital punishment, family ethics, race relations, social justice, war, women's issues. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors. Fulfills USCP.

**PHIL 336 Feminist Ethics, Gender and Society (4) GE C4 USCP**

Critical examination of the relations between gender, ethnicity, society and ethics from feminist perspectives, with special attention paid to problems in contemporary applied ethics. Joint focus on theory and application. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors. Fulfills USCP.

**PHIL 337 Business Ethics (4) GE C4**

Critical examination of ethical problems that arise in business. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

**PHIL 339 Biomedical Ethics (4) GE C4**

Critical examination of problems in biomedical ethics, proposed solutions to these problems, and the arguments for such solutions. Emphasis on two or more of the following sample problem areas: concepts of health and disease, human experimentation, informed consent, behavior control, genetic intervention, new birth technologies, euthanasia and physician-assisted dying. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

**PHIL 340 Environmental Ethics (4) GE C4**

Analyses of various positions on the moral status of nonhuman entities and problems such as the treatment of animals, wilderness preservation, population, pollution and global warming. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

**PHIL 341 Professional Ethics (4) GE C4**

Moral problems as they arise in professions such as law, medicine, engineering, research and education: deception, paternalism, confidentiality, discrimination and others. Consideration of various professional codes of ethics. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

**PHIL 342 Philosophy of Religion (4) GE C4**

Inquiry into the rational and nonrational bases of religious claims. Arguments for and against the existence of God. Discussion of miracles, revelation, the definition of God, the problem of evil, the relation of faith and reason, the nature of religious experience, the verification of religious claims. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

**PHIL 350 Aesthetics (4) GE C4**

Critical examination of philosophical views of art from both a historical and contemporary perspective. Treatment of theories from Plato and Aristotle through those of the twentieth century. Discussion of the problems raised by modern art. The relation between aesthetic values and metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and politics. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

**PHIL 400 Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates (1-2 4)**

Individual investigation, research, studies or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 4-8 units, with a maximum of 2-4 units per quarter. Prerequisite: Consent of department chair. *Change effective Winter 2012.*

**PHIL 411 Metaphysics (4)**

Traditional and current ideas and arguments about substance, the relation of universals to particulars, space and time, events, causation and necessity, the self and free will. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

**PHIL 412 Epistemology (4)**

Analysis of the concept of knowledge. Development of competing theories of epistemic justification and truth. Inquiry into relationship between knowledge, belief, justification and truth. Examination of skepticism. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

**PHIL 420 Philosophy of Biology (4)**

Philosophical implications and assumptions of evolutionary theory, the problem of reduction, feminist critiques, demarcation issues and the differences between biology and other sciences. Ethical and social issues, including Creationism and "intelligent design" theories, eugenics, sociobiology, and ecology. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

**PHIL 421 Philosophy of Space, Time and Matter (4)**

Investigation of the philosophical foundations and interpretation of relativity theory and elementary quantum mechanics. Emphasis on philosophical issues relevant to contemporary philosophy of science such as scientific realism. Some discussion of very recent theories of space, time, and matter. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

**PHIL 422 Philosophy of Mind (4)**

Classic and current work in the problems and issues of the nature and unity of the self, consciousness, mental representations, and action, and of the relation of philosophy of mind to psychology, linguistics and computer science. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

**PHIL 423 Philosophy of Language (4)**

Traditional and contemporary philosophical issues that arise from the structure of language. Relevant concepts include: syntax, semantics, pragmatics, meaning, reference, truth, identity, thought, reality. Important distinctions: use/mention, relations/properties of relations, sentences/statements/-propositions. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

**PHIL 429 Special Topics in the History of Philosophy (4)**

Advanced discussion of selected topics in the history of philosophy. Examination and analysis of important philosophical movements (e.g., positivism, postmodernism) or alternatively, of particular philosophers or philosophical works of exceptional importance (e.g., David Hume; Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*). The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

**PHIL 439 Selected Problems in Ethics and Political Philosophy (4)**

Advanced discussion of selected topics in ethics and political philosophy. Examination and analysis of significant ethical or political theories (e.g., utilitarianism, contractarianism) or alternatively, of particular philosophers or philosophical works of exceptional importance (e.g., John Stuart Mill; John Rawls' *A Theory of Justice*). The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

**PHIL 449 Selected Topics in Recent Philosophy (4)**

Advanced discussion of selected topics in recent philosophy. Examination and analysis of important recent movements in central philosophical areas (e.g., metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of science, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind) or, alternatively, of particular philosophers or philosophical works of exceptional recent importance. The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units credit; may be repeated in same term. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

**PHIL 460, 461 Senior Project I, II (2) (2) (460: CR/NC)**

Selection, development and completion of a project under faculty supervision. Results presented in a formal thesis. Minimum of 60 hours per quarter. PHIL 460 is graded on a CR/NC basis. Work in PHIL 461 is given a letter grade. **PHIL 460** prerequisite: PHIL 225 or **PHIL 241**, senior standing, and consent of instructor. Philosophy majors only. **PHIL 461** prerequisite: PHIL 460. Student must also receive a passing score on the senior examination in order to enroll in PHIL 461. *Change effective Winter 2012.*

**PHIL 470 Selected Advanced Topics (1-4)**

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1-4 lectures. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.