

# Philosophy

## The Curriculum

Each of the courses in the philosophy curriculum starts out with substantial instruction in reasoning skills. In the subsequent examinations of specific issues, students gradually develop their capacity to join in the examination with logical rigor. Students develop this capacity both in frequent class discussions and in writing assignments. The Seminar in Philosophy (Philosophy 99) is an intensive study of a philosophical topic that is not covered by the ordinary curriculum, such as engineering or medical ethics, philosophy of language, philosophy of science, or philosophy of mind. (Students are encouraged to make suggestions to the faculty regarding the topic for the seminar.) Philosophy courses may be used to meet general education and transfer requirements in critical thinking and humanities.

## The Associate Degree Major

The student of philosophy seeks to uncover the assumptions underlying our understanding of the world and to subject those assumptions to careful scrutiny using the tools of logic. Thus, in doing philosophy, one asks such fundamental questions as, "Can I really know anything about the world?" "What is my relationship to government and to society?" "Have I a free will?" "What is the relationship between the language I use and the world?" In pursuing such questions systematically, one may approach the Socratic ideal of living the "examined life": a life in which one attempts to arrive at those beliefs best supported by reason.

The precision of thought and expression that philosophy requires makes excellent preparation for a variety of careers. Analytical skills developed in philosophy are particularly useful in the study of law, but philosophy majors have pursued successful careers in a variety of fields, such as computer programming, business, policy analysis, government, and teaching. The major is also a sound foundation for transfer students intending upper-division study in philosophy.

### If you intend to transfer:

Courses that fulfill major requirements for an associate degree at Irvine Valley College may not be the same as those required for completing the major at a transfer institution offering a baccalaureate degree. If you plan to transfer to a four-year college or university, you should (1) refer to the transfer section of this catalog, (2) consult the catalog of your prospective transfer institution (see the IVC Transfer Center for assistance), and (3) schedule an appointment with an IVC counselor to develop a plan of study before you begin your program. In addition, it may be helpful to meet with the appropriate department faculty at IVC.

### If you plan to complete an associate degree:

You must complete the following set of courses to fulfill the major requirement and, in addition, meet the general education requirements listed on page 21 for the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree. Refer to page 16 for additional options for fulfilling the major requirement.

## PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

### (A.A. Degree)

Complete the following core courses:

PHIL 8	Critical Thinking	(4)
or	or	
WR 2†	College Writing 2: Critical Thinking/Writing	(4)
PHIL 10	History of Philosophy to Descartes	3
PHIL 11	History of Philosophy from Descartes	3

† Students who complete Writing 2 must take either Philosophy 3 or 4 in selecting from the next group of courses.

Complete two of the following courses:

PHIL 1	Introduction to Philosophy	(3)
PHIL 3	Introduction to Logic	(3)
PHIL 4	Symbolic Logic	(3)
PHIL 7	Contemporary Moral Issues	(3)
PHIL 99	Seminar in Philosophy	(3)

Complete one of the following courses:

PHIL 2	Ethics	(3)
PHIL 5	Political Philosophy	(3)
PHIL 6	Philosophy of Religion	(3)

**Total units: 19**

Recommended electives: HIST 10, 11; any humanities course.

# Philosophy Courses

## PHIL 1 3 units

### INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

This course explains the tools and methods of the philosopher and introduces a few representative philosophical issues. Typical issues are the free will problem, the problem of personal identity, the question of God's existence, and the question of the nature of knowledge of the external world. (CAN PHIL 2) NR  
*Lecture hours: 3*

## PHIL 2 3 units

### ETHICS

This course introduces the classic works and chief issues of philosophical ethics. Classic works include Aristotle's *Nichomachean Ethics*, Kant's *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals*, and Mill's *Utilitarianism*. Issues include the following: What is the definition of "right"? What is the definition of "good"? Are moral values relative? Are there moral truths? (CAN PHIL 4) NR  
*Lecture hours: 3*

## PHIL 3 3 units

### INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

Philosophy 3 undertakes a practical-minded study of good and bad reasoning, grounded in traditional logic. The primary goal of the course is to equip students with concepts, distinctions, and evaluative procedures which will enable them to assess arguments appearing in books, articles, conversations, speeches, and oral commentaries. NR  
*Lecture hours: 3*

## PHIL 4 3 units

### SYMBOLIC LOGIC

Philosophy 4 is a general introduction to the techniques of formal logic and the methods of non-formal logic. This survey will include investigations of the distinction between truth and formal validity, decision procedures within sentential and elementary predicate logic, and sound reasoning within the sciences and everyday life. NR  
*Lecture hours: 3*

## PHIL 5 3 units

### POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

This course introduces traditional philosophical issues concerning government and politics. Among these issues are the nature and grounds of political obligation, the nature and possibility of legitimate political authority, and the tension between legitimate coercion and the value of freedom. The course emphasizes classic works in political philosophy, including Plato's *Republic*, Hobbes' *Leviathan*, and Locke's *Second Treatise*. NR  
*Lecture hours: 3*

## PHIL 6 3 units

### PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

This course examines the central philosophical issues concerning religion, especially within the Judeo-Christian tradition. These issues include God's existence, the nature and attributes of God, the problem of evil, and the relationship between rationality and faith. NR  
*Lecture hours: 3*

## PHIL 7 3 units

### CONTEMPORARY MORAL ISSUES

This course presents a systematic and rigorous philosophical examination of at least two contemporary moral issues. Typical issues include mercy killing, world hunger, abortion, discrimination, affirmative action, the death penalty, and animal rights. NR  
*Lecture hours: 3*

## PHIL 8 4 units

### CRITICAL THINKING

*Prereq: Wr. 1.* This course introduces the analysis and evaluation of argument and other forms of verbal discourse. Among other things, the course discusses the various uses of language, the distinction between deduction and induction, and the identification of formal and informal fallacies. Students will be taught to distinguish and evaluate assertions, explanations, and arguments and to develop well-reasoned positions on controversial issues. A central focus of the course is instruction in writing, including instruction in form and style, that emphasizes and applies "critical thinking" concepts. NR  
*Lecture hours: 4*

## PHIL 10 3 units

### HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY TO DESCARTES

This course is the first half of an examination of the ideas and central works of the major philosophers of the Western tradition. Essentially, the course examines the great philosophers of Classical Greece and Rome and of the medieval period. These philosophers include Heraclitus, Plato, Aristotle, St. Anselm, and St. Thomas. NR  
*Lecture hours: 3*

## PHIL 11 3 units

### HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY FROM DESCARTES

This course is the second half of an examination of the ideas and central works of the major philosophers of the Western tradition. Essentially, the course examines the great philosophers of the modern and contemporary periods. These philosophers include Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Mill, Russell, and Wittgenstein. NR  
*Lecture hours: 3*

## PHIL 99 1-3 units

### SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 99 offers students the opportunity to participate in a lower-division seminar in philosophy in which they consider a particular philosophical issue or problem not routinely offered in the college curriculum. Topics are developed by the Philosophy Department and often focus on the philosophical dimensions of fields outside of philosophy or on some significant topic or issue within contemporary or historical philosophical investigation. Granting of UC credit for courses of this kind is contingent upon a review of the course outline by a UC campus. R-E  
*Lecture hours: 1-3*