

# Philosophy

## Faculty

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## 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.

## 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. Those who do well in philosophy can expect to think more clearly and logically and to approach problems or issues more systematically. Philosophy students are encouraged to develop a clear, precise, and direct writing style. Increasingly, the ability to write in this fashion is valued by employers.

Philosophy majors are among the most successful law students, owing to philosophy's emphasis on analysis, argumentation, and evaluation. Analytical skills developed in philosophy are also useful in a variety of fields, such as computer programming, business, policy analysis, government, and teaching. The major also provides a sound foundation for transfer students intending upper division study in philosophy.

### Associate in Arts Degree in Philosophy:

Students must complete a minimum of 60 units of credit, including the courses in the major and general education requirements (page 22), with an overall GPA of 2.0 or better. A minimum of 12 units must be completed at Irvine Valley College. See pages 20-21 for further information, including other options for fulfilling the major requirement.

### Transfer Preparation:

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. Students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university should (1) refer to the transfer section of this catalog, (2) consult the catalog of their 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 beginning their program. It may be helpful to meet with the department faculty at IVC.

## Associate in Arts Degree

### Philosophy Major

Complete the following core courses:		Units
<b>WR 2</b>	College Writing 2: Critical Thinking/Writing	4
<b>PHIL 10</b>	History of Philosophy to Descartes	3
<b>PHIL 11</b>	History of Philosophy from Descartes	3
Complete <u>two</u> of the following courses:		
<b>PHIL 1</b>	Introduction to Philosophy	3
<b>PHIL 3</b>	Introduction to Logic	3
<b>PHIL 99</b>	Seminar in Philosophy	3
Complete <u>one</u> of the following courses:		
<b>PHIL 2</b>	Ethics	3
<b>PHIL 5</b>	Political Philosophy	3
<b>PHIL 6</b>	Philosophy of Religion	3
<b>TOTAL UNITS: 19</b>		

## Philosophy Courses

<b>PHIL 1: Introduction to Philosophy</b>	<b>3 Units</b> <i>3 hours lecture</i>
Introduction to Philosophy 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	
<b>PHIL 2: Ethics</b>	<b>3 Units</b> <i>3 hours lecture</i>
Ethics introduces the classic works and chief issues of philosophical ethics. Classic works include Aristotle's "Nichomachean Ethics," Kant's "Fundamental Principles of Metaphysics of Morals," and Mill's "Utilitarianism." Issues include the definition of "right," the definition of "good," and relativity vs. absolutism. (CAN PHIL 4) NR	
<b>PHIL 3: Introduction to Logic</b>	<b>3 Units</b> <i>3 hours lecture</i>
Philosophy 3 undertakes a study of good and bad reasoning, grounded in traditional logic. The chief goal of the course is to equip students with concepts and skills that will enable them to assess arguments. NR	

**PHIL 5: Political Philosophy****3 Units***3 hours lecture*

Political Philosophy introduces traditional philosophical issues concerning 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 freedom. The course emphasizes classic works in political philosophy, including Plato's "Republic," Hobbes' "Leviathan," and Locke's "Second Treatise." Philosophy 5 is also listed as Political Science 5; credit will be given in either area, not both. NR

**PHIL 6: Philosophy of Religion****3 Units***3 hours lecture*

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

**PHIL 10: History of Philosophy to Descartes****3 Units***3 hours lecture*

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, including Plato, Aristotle, St. Anselm, and St. Thomas. NR

**PHIL 11: History of Philosophy from Descartes****3 Units***3 hours lecture*

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 modern and contemporary philosophers, including Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Mill, Russell, and Wittgenstein. NR

**PHIL 99: Seminar in Philosophy****1-3 units***1-3 hours lecture*

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