Philosophy

The study of philosophy develops and refines a rigorous, analytic understanding of certain of our fundamental concepts, e.g., knowledge, reason, truth and value. Since all other disciplines in academia rely on the use of such concepts, the study of philosophy is essential for an education directed toward completeness.

The study of philosophy also yields other tangible academic benefits. It has been shown that philosophy students scored at least five percentage points above average in admission tests for professional and graduate schools in America. No other subject matches philosophy in this respect. Philosophy students do better in examinations for business and management school than anyone except mathematicians.

With employment opportunities beyond academia apparently growing, e.g., consultants to hospitals, state legislatures, Congress, genetic engineering firms and artificial intelligence companies, there has also been a proliferation of philosophical journals focused on such topics as the allocation of scarce medical resources, abortion, euthanasia, disposal of nuclear waste, corporate responsibility and fair profit, etc.

The Philosophy Department additionally provides an Introduction to Philosophy course which surveys most of the standard fields of philosophy—logic, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics, the philosophy of religion and political philosophy.

The other courses offered (Ethics, Logic, Comparative World Religions, History of Philosophy: Ancient, Modern and Contemporary, Issues in Philosophy) are more specific and detailed accounts of these standard fields.

These philosophy courses may be transferred to four-year institutions. (Check for specifics with your counselor)

Program Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historically significant questions, problems and theories in the major areas of philosophy (epistemology, metaphysics, value theory, logic), including the views and arguments of the major representative philosophers who have addressed these issues.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic rules and principles of logic, including the skill and knowledge of identifying, analyzing and evaluating arguments.

3. Demonstrate knowledge of the questions, problems, issues and theories that characterize the major historical periods of Western philosophy (Ancient, Medieval, Modern and Contemporary), as well as the views of the some major philosophers within these periods.

4. Demonstrate knowledge of the complexity of the human condition, including knowledge of the significance of feelings, emotions and cultural/historical influences on philosophical thinking and methodology.

5. Demonstrate critical thinking skills, virtues and attitudes in the exploration of issues; these include intellectual humility, empathy, fairness, open-mindedness and respect for the intellectual standards of clarity, accuracy, precision, relevance, scope, depth and coherence.

6. Demonstrate proficiency in philosophical writing, which includes presenting a philosophical thesis, supporting that thesis with arguments, and articulating and responding to counter-arguments.

Department Offices
Philosophy Department (IDC-354, ext. 2476)

Faculty and Offices
Joseph P. White, Chair (IDC-354, ext. 2476, white@sbcc.edu)
Marc Bobro (IDC-356, ext. 4710, bobro@sbcc.edu)

Degree Awarded
Associate in Arts Degree, Philosophy

A.A. Degree: Philosophy
Department Requirements (18-19 units)

Philosophy majors at Santa Barbara City College are required to take a minimum of eighteen (18) Philosophy units. Those students considering a major in Philosophy should consult with a Philosophy Department faculty member to plan a departmental course of study that will most benefit them.

PHIL 100 — Introduction to Philosophy .........................3
PHIL 100 — Introduction to Philosophy (3) — CSU, UC
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H
Hours: 54 lecture
General survey of the basic problems and systems in philosophy. Special consideration given to Elementary Logic, Epistemology, Metaphysics, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Political Philosophy and Aesthetics.

PHIL 101 — Introduction to Ethics (3) — CSU, UC*
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H
Hours: 54 lecture
Study of the types and history of ethical theories. Analysis of the factual and normative factors involved in making moral choices. Discussion of the nature of moral standards and values and their relevance to present times. Some usual topics include the meaning of “should,” “right,” “justice,” “blame,” “responsibility.” An examination of the moral aspect of social issues, such as abortion, euthanasia, the environment and drug legalization, etc. (*UC Transfer Limit: PHIL 101 and 101H combined: maximum credit, one course).
PHIL 101H — Introduction to Ethics, Honors
(4) — CSU, UC*
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H
Limitation on Enrollment: Acceptance into the Honors Program.
Hours: 72 lecture
In-depth study of the types and history of ethical theories. Analysis of the factual and normative factors involved in making moral choices. Discussion of the nature of moral standards and values and their relevance to present times. Topics include the meaning of “should,” “right,” “justice,” “blame,” “responsibility.” Examines the moral aspect of social issues, such as abortion, euthanasia, the environment and drug legalization, etc. (*UC Transfer Limit: PHIL 101 and 101H combined: maximum credit, one course)

PHIL 102 — Comparative World Religions
(3) — CSU, UC*
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H
Hours: 54 lecture
Presentation and interpretation of the fundamental concepts, ideals, customs, rituals and insights of the major religious traditions. Religions discussed are Hinduism; Buddhism; Greek; Roman; Taoism; Confucianism; Shintoism; Jainism; Zoroastrianism; Sikhism; Judaism; Christianity; and Islam. (*UC Transfer Limit: PHIL 102 and 102H combined: maximum credit, one course.)

PHIL 102H — Comparative World Religions, Honors
(3) — CSU, UC*
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H
Limitation on Enrollment: Acceptance into the Honors Program.
Hours: 54 lecture
In-depth presentation and interpretation of the fundamental concepts, ideals, customs, rituals and insights of the major religious traditions. Religions discussed: Hinduism; Buddhism; Greek; Roman; Taoism; Confucianism; Shintoism; Jainism; Zoroastrianism; Sikhism; Judaism; Christianity; and Islam. (*UC Transfer Limit: PHIL 102 and 102H combined: maximum credit, one course.)

PHIL 105 — Business Ethics
(3) — CSU, UC
Skills Advisories: ENG 110 or 110H with a “C” or better
Hours: 54 lecture
Exploration of how to recognize, analyze and implement ethical decisions within the multi-valued contexts of business. Study of major ethical theories and how they can be applied to business situations. Analysis of the factual and normative aspects of making moral choices and resolving moral dilemmas faced in the corporate world. Issues include corporate responsibility, employee and consumer rights, sexual harassment, fair hiring practices, obligations to the environment, multinational corporations and the ethics of international trade.

PHIL 111 — Critical Thinking and Writing in Philosophy
(3) — CSU, UC
Prerequisites: ENG 110 or 110H with a “C” or better
Hours: 54 lecture
Examination of the basic elements of logic, including the study of the principles of inductive and deductive reasoning, and their relevance to problem-solving scientific methods and argument analysis/evaluation. Development of critical thinking skills, including identifying and evaluating arguments, recognizing informal fallacies, and the uses of language in a variety of contexts. Integration of critical thinking skills with the techniques of effective argumentative writing. (Fulfills Critical Thinking requirement for IGETC/CSU General Education.)

PHIL 200 — History of Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval
(3) — CSU, UC
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H
Hours: 54 lecture
Study of the thought of the major philosophers from the time of Thales (the founder of philosophy), 640 B.C., through the Medieval period. Philosophers discussed are the Presocratics; Sophists; Socrates; Plato; Aristotle; the Greek Atomists (Leucippus, Democritus, Epicurus); the Stoics; Plotinus and the Neo-Platonists; Augustine; and Aquinas.
PHIL 201 — History of Philosophy: Modern
(3) — CSU, UC
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H
Hours: 54 lecture
Study of the thought of the major philosophers from the
time of the Renaissance/Reformation; rise of science
in the 1500s to early 19th century. Philosophers
discussed are Bacon; Hobbes; Descartes; Spinoza;
Leibnitz; Locke; Berkeley; Hume; and Kant.

PHIL 203 — History of Philosophy:
Contemporary
(3) — CSU, UC
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H
Hours: 54 lecture
Philosophers of the 19th and 20th centuries are studied,
showing their impact upon thought, culture and society.
Some of the philosophers presented are Bertrand Russell;
G. Frege; G.E. Moore; Jean Paul Sartre; L. Wittgenstein;
Ayer; Ryle; Heidegger; Husserl; Rawls; and Quine.

PHIL 204/PHYS 104 — History and Philosophy
of the Great Ideas of Physics
(3) — CSU, UC
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H
Hours: 54 lecture
Examines the history and development of the major
ideas of physics. Designed particularly for philosophy
students and others in the liberal arts and humanities.
Physical ideas of three significant eras: ancient Greece;
the beginnings of modern science from the 17th to 18th
centuries, including the thinking of Copernicus, Galileo
and Newton; and the revolutionary ideas of early 20th
century and contemporary physics. Course is designed
to be conceptual, rather than mathematical, in its
investigation of the great ideas of physics.

PHIL 205 — Introduction to Logic
(3) — CSU, UC
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H
Hours: 54 lecture
Investigation into the nature of argument. Such
topics as justification, induction, deduction, validity,
language and thought, formal and informal fallacies
are discussed. Includes an introduction to Traditional
Categorical Logic, and the Propositional Calculus and
Quantification Theory.

PHIL 207 — Issues in Philosophy Series
(1-3) — CSU
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 100 and 103
Hours: 54 lecture
Important issues (philosophers, topics, problems and
fields) of philosophy are studied, revealing their impact
on our lives, thought and civilization. Issues presented
in this series include bioethics; mind/body problem;
pacifism; morality and human nature; philosophy of
art; philosophy and literature; philosophy and politics;
philosophy of education; philosophy of science;
philosophy of film; the philosophy of mathematics;
philosophy of mind; and comparative philosophy.

PHIL 207A — Comparative Philosophy,
East and West
(3) — CSU, UC
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 100 and 103
Hours: 54 lecture
Critical examination of the predominant philosophical
ideas of three of the most influential physiological
perspectives in world history: Western regionalism,
Indian mysticism and Chinese social relationalism.

PHIL 295 — Internship in Philosophy
(2-4) — CSU
Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or 110H
Limitation on Enrollment: Completion of two courses
(in applicable discipline) at SBCC prior to enrolling in
an internship course.
Five to 10 hours weekly on-the-job experience.
Hours: 108-273 lab
Structured internship program in which students gain
experience in community organizations related to the
discipline.

PHIL 299 — Independent Study in Philosophy
(1-4) — CSU
Limitation on Enrollment: At least three Philosophy
courses. To be eligible for independent study, a student
must have completed a minimum of 12 units at Santa
Barbara City College with a 2.5 GPA
Hours: 48-192 lab
For complete information, see “Independent Study” in
the Catalog Index. (*UC Transfer Limit: computed as
Independent Study; see counselor)