PHILOSOPHY, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

Philosophy addresses problems and questions that arise in all areas of human thought and experience and in all disciplines. Recurring questions about the nature of value, the good life, right conduct, knowledge, truth, language, mind, and reality are central to philosophical study. Philosophy also investigates the methodologies and assumptions of the major disciplines in the university in order to deepen our understanding of the sciences, of mathematics, art, literature, and history, and of religion and morality. It leads us to address issues about the nature of these subjects, about the methods of reasoning characteristic of them, and about the contributions they make to our understanding of ourselves and our world.

Philosophy contributes to the liberal education of its students. The department emphasizes an analytic approach to philosophical questions, which trains students to understand and evaluate arguments and to think and write precisely and clearly. These skills are of immense value in a variety of careers.

The Program

The Department of Philosophy offers its majors a choice among three options. The General Emphasis provides a broad view of the field of philosophy. It includes a breadth requirement at the lower division level while providing students wide choice in more advanced courses. The Pre-Law and Pre-Med Emphases include courses that provide philosophical perspectives on law and medicine respectively and that also provide important preparation for professional school.

The Department offers courses in most areas of contemporary analytic philosophy including the theory of knowledge, metaphysics, logic, ethics, and political philosophy. In addition, upper division courses are offered in oral and political philosophy, and aesthetics, and in the philosophy of religion, of mind, of language, of mathematics, of law, and of the physical, biological and social sciences. The problems of philosophy have important roots in past. The history of philosophy is important not only as part of the heritage of educated persons, but also because it is relevant to contemporary issues. For these reasons, the department places great emphasis on the history of philosophy, providing courses on the major figures and traditions of western philosophy.

Major Advisor

Staff advisors are located in the Blue Ridge Office Building. For information about how to contact a major advisor, see Major Advising (https://yellowcluster.ucdavis.edu/advising/undergraduate/major-advising/).

Faculty Advisor

Rohan French, Ph.D.

Career Pathways

Students of philosophy learn to understand and evaluate arguments and to think and write precisely and clearly. These analytical skills are assets in any career. Many of our majors have pursued graduate study in philosophy and have become philosophers in their own right. Others have pursued academic careers in related disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Philosophy majors are well prepared for law, business, or other professional schools and have found careers in computer programming, government service, teaching, the ministry, and social work. Those wishing to attend law school or medical school should consider pursuing the Pre-Law and Pre-Med emphases, respectively.

Honors Program

The department offers an honors program, which gives qualifying majors the opportunity to work closely with faculty and graduate students. Information can be obtained on the Honors Program (https://philosophy.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate/honors-and-awards/honors-program/) page of the Philosophy Department website.

Courses for Non-Majors

Students majoring in most disciplines in the university will find courses relevant to their educational or career goals. PHI 001 is the introductory course for both majors and non-majors. PHI 005 teaches critical thinking. The following PHI courses are recommended:

Code	Title	Units
(1) Pre-Law		
PHI 012	Introduction to Symbolic Logic	4
PHI 014	Ethical & Social Problems in Contemporary Society	4
PHI 024	Introduction to Ethics	4
PHI 030	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	4
PHI 102	Theory of Knowledge	4
PHI 112	Intermediate Symbolic Logic	4
PHI 115	Problems in Normative Ethics	4
PHI 116	Ethical Theories	4
PHI 118	Political Philosophy	4
PHI 119	Philosophy of Law (especially)	4
(2) Pre-Medical		
PHI 014	Ethical & Social Problems in Contemporary Society	4
PHI 015	Introduction to Bioethics	4
PHI 030	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	4
PHI 038	Introduction to Philosophy of Biology	4
PHI 108	Philosophy of the Biological Sciences	4
PHI 114	History of Ethics	4
PHI 115	Problems in Normative Ethics	4
PHI 116	Ethical Theories	4
(3) Business		
PHI 014	Ethical & Social Problems in Contemporary Society	4
PHI 102	Theory of Knowledge	4
PHI 112	Intermediate Symbolic Logic	4
PHI 114	History of Ethics	4
PHI 115	Problems in Normative Ethics	4
PHI 116	Ethical Theories	4
PHI 117	Foundations of Ethics	4
PHI 118	Political Philosophy	4
PHI 119	Philosophy of Law	4
(4) Social Policy		
PHI 014	Ethical & Social Problems in Contemporary Society	4
PHI 024	Introduction to Ethics	4

PHI 101	Metaphysics	4
PHI 102	Theory of Knowledge	4
PHI 114	History of Ethics	4
PHI 115	Problems in Normative Ethics	4
PHI 116	Ethical Theories	4
PHI 117	Foundations of Ethics	4
PHI 118	Political Philosophy	4
PHI 119	Philosophy of Law	4
PHI 120	Environmental Ethics	4
(5) Social Sciences		
PHI 012	Introduction to Symbolic Logic	4
PHI 030	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	4
PHI 031	Appraising Scientific Reasoning	4
PHI 032	Understanding Scientific Change	4
PHI 101	Metaphysics	4
PHI 102	Theory of Knowledge	4
PHI 103	Philosophy on Mind	4
PHI 109	Philosophy of the Social Sciences	4
PHI 118	Political Philosophy	4
PHI 131	Philosophy of Logic & Mathematics	4
(6) Physical Sciences		
PHI 012	Introduction to Symbolic Logic	4
PHI 030	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	4
PHI 031	Appraising Scientific Reasoning	4
PHI 032	Understanding Scientific Change	4
PHI 101	Metaphysics	4
PHI 102	Theory of Knowledge	4
PHI 107	Philosophy of the Physical Sciences	4
PHI 112	Intermediate Symbolic Logic	4
PHI 131	Philosophy of Logic & Mathematics	4
(7) Biological Sciences		
PHI 030	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	4
PHI 031	Appraising Scientific Reasoning	4
PHI 032	Understanding Scientific Change	4
PHI 038	Introduction to Philosophy of Biology	4
PHI 101	Metaphysics	4
PHI 102	Theory of Knowledge	4
PHI 108	Philosophy of the Biological Sciences	4
PHI 120	Environmental Ethics	4
(8) Humanities & the Arts		
PHI 014	Ethical & Social Problems in Contemporary Society	4
PHI 021	Philosophical Classics of the Ancient Era	4
PHI 022	Philosophical Classics of the Modern Era	4
PHI 024	Introduction to Ethics	4
PHI 101	Metaphysics	4
PHI 102	Theory of Knowledge	4
PHI 103	Philosophy on Mind	4
PHI 105	Philosophy of Religion	4
PHI 114	History of Ethics	4
PHI 116	Ethical Theories	4
PHI 118	Political Philosophy	4
PHI 123	Aesthetics	4
PHI 141-PHI 175		4
(9) Agricultural & Environmental Science & Policy		
PHI 005	Critical Reasoning	4
PHI 014	Ethical & Social Problems in Contemporary Society	4
PHI 024	Introduction to Ethics	4
PHI 030	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	4
PHI 031	Appraising Scientific Reasoning	4
PHI 114	History of Ethics	4
PHI 115	Problems in Normative Ethics	4
PHI 116	Ethical Theories	4
PHI 118	Political Philosophy	4
PHI 120	Environmental Ethics	4

Department Activities

The Philosophy department sponsors a lecture series with well-known philosophers who present papers in their fields of expertise. The department also operates ongoing faculty and graduate student workshops. Undergraduate students are welcome to attend and join these discussions. Information can be obtained on the department website.

Graduate Study

The Department of Philosophy offers programs of study leading to M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. Detailed information is available Graduate Program (https://philosophy.ucdavis.edu/graduate/graduate-program-overview/), and may also be obtained by writing to the Graduate Advisor.

Graduate Advisor

Tina Rulli, Ph.D.

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/) & College Degree Requirements (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for all emphases of the Philosophy Bachelor of Arts is 52.

General Emphasis

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
PHI 012	Introduction to Symbolic Logic	4
Choose one course each from any three areas:		12
(a) General Philosophy		
PHI 001	Introduction to Philosophy	
(b) Ancient Philosophy		
PHI 021	Philosophical Classics of the Ancient Era	
(c) Early Modern Philosophy		
PHI 022	Philosophical Classics of the Modern Era	
(d) Philosophy of Mind		
PHI 013G	Minds, Brains, & Computers with Discussion	
(e) Ethics		

PHI 014	Ethical & Social Problems in Contemporary Society	
PHI 015	Introduction to Bioethics	
PHI 024	Introduction to Ethics	
(f) Philosophy of Science		
PHI 030	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	
PHI 031	Appraising Scientific Reasoning	
PHI 032	Understanding Scientific Change	
PHI 038	Introduction to Philosophy of Biology	
(g) Philosophy of Language		
PHI 017	Language, Thought, & World	
(h) Metaphysics		
PHI 101	Metaphysics [1]	
(i) Theory of Knowledge		
PHI 102	Theory of Knowledge [1]	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		16
Depth Subject Matter		
Upper division units in Philosophy (100-199)		36
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		36
Total Units		**52**

[1]

Note: PHI 101 and PHI 102 may not be counted toward both preparatory and depth subject matter units.

Pre-Law Emphasis

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
PHI 005	Critical Reasoning	4
PHI 012	Introduction to Symbolic Logic	4
PHI 024	Introduction to Ethics	4
Choose one:		4
PHI 014	Ethical & Social Problems in Contemporary Society	
PHI 015	Introduction to Bioethics	
PHI 016	Philosophical Foundations of American Democracy	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		16
Depth Subject Matter		
PHI 112	Intermediate Symbolic Logic	4
PHI 119	Philosophy of Law	4
Philosophy of Law		
Choose two courses from the following "Philosophy of Law" Group		8
PHI 102	Theory of Knowledge	
PHI 116	Ethical Theories	
PHI 118	Political Philosophy	
PHI 121	Bioethics	
PHI 128	Rationality	
PHI 189F	Special Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Law	
History of Philosophy		
Choose one course from the following "History of Philosophy" Group		4

PHI 114	History of Ethics	
PHI 141	Socrates & the Socratic Dialogue	
PHI 143	Hellenistic Philosophy	
PHI 145	Christian, Islamic, & Jewish Philosophers of the Middle Ages	
PHI 161	Plato	
PHI 162	Aristotle	
PHI 168	Descartes	
PHI 170	Spinoza & Leibniz	
PHI 174	Hume	
PHI 175	Kant	
PHI 189A	Special Topics in Philosophy: History of Philosophy	
Additional upper division elective units in philosophy (100-199).		16
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		36
Total Units		**52**

Pre-Med Emphasis

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
PHI 012	Introduction to Symbolic Logic	4
PHI 015	Introduction to Bioethics	4
PHI 038	Introduction to Philosophy of Biology	4
Choose one:		4
PHI 024	Introduction to Ethics	
PHI 030	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	
PHI 031	Appraising Scientific Reasoning	
PHI 032	Understanding Scientific Change	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		16
Depth Subject Matter		
PHI 112	Intermediate Symbolic Logic	4
PHI 121	Bioethics	4
Philosophy of Science		
Choose one course from the following "Philosophy of Science" Group		4
PHI 107	Philosophy of the Physical Sciences	
PHI 108	Philosophy of the Biological Sciences	
PHI 128	Rationality	
PHI 189I	Special Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Science	
Additional upper division elective units in Philosophy (100-199).		24
Note: Admission to medical schools requires additional coursework not included in the Pre-Med Emphasis. Refer to Health Professions Advising for more information. [1]		
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		36
Total Units		**52**

[1]

Health Professions Advising Website (https://hpa.ucdavis.edu/)