

# PHILOSOPHY

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<https://philosophy.calpoly.edu>

Department Chair: Kenneth Brown

## Academic Programs

Program name	Program type
Philosophy	BA, Minor
Religious Studies	Minor
Western Intellectual Tradition	Minor

The Philosophy Department at Cal Poly is one of the largest in the CSU system. It prides itself on excellence in teaching and the high standards met by its students. A degree in philosophy is one of the best preparations for graduate or professional school and the evidence for this is substantial. Nationally, philosophy majors outscore everyone but majors in mathematics and physics on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). Similar trends are also seen for scores in all sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), the exam required by most MBA programs.

The reason for this is unsurprising. The study of philosophy requires the meticulous development of general analytical reasoning skills. Even students not planning to go on to graduate or professional school are well served by the analytical and verbal skills developed by the study of philosophy. The ability to communicate clearly and forcefully is increasingly rare and, as a result, increasingly sought after in the job market.

## Undergraduate Programs

### BA Philosophy

Students can pursue a curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, including optional concentrations in Philosophy and Religion, Ethics of Science and Technology, and Ethics and Society. The department also offers a minor in Philosophy, courses and a minor in Religious Studies, and directs an interdisciplinary minor in The Western Intellectual Tradition. An unusually large number of courses is offered in the history of philosophy, as well as courses in specific areas of philosophy (logic, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology), courses that deal with the philosophical issues arising in other disciplines (e.g., philosophy of science, philosophy of literature, aesthetics), courses in eastern philosophy, and applied ethics courses especially in areas related to science and technology.

### Concentrations

Students may choose to complete 20 units of 300-400 level philosophy courses *or* choose one of three concentrations.

#### Ethics and Society

Designed for students with an interest in pursuing professional careers in which they will need to address practical ethical issues, especially careers in business, medicine, politics and law.

#### Ethics of Science and Technology

Designed for students with an interest in careers involving science and technology, whether as makers or other roles (such as in business, law,

policy, advocacy, and government) to understand, evaluate, and influence the responsible development of new and emerging innovations.

### Philosophy and Religion

Designed for students with an interest in religion, including those interested in pursuing careers in religious ministry or graduate work in Religious Studies or Philosophy of Religion.

Degree Requirements and Curriculum (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofliberalarts/philosophy/baphilosophy/>)

## Philosophy Minor

The minor program in Philosophy is designed for students who want to add to their education an understanding of the history of philosophy, of contemporary trends in philosophy, or of philosophical issues relevant to their major field of study. Interested students are invited to contact the Philosophy Department Office or website for more information and application forms.

Philosophy Minor Objectives:

1. Significant critical skill
2. Competence at philosophical writing
3. Good, general knowledge of the history of philosophy, or grasp of main currents in contemporary philosophy
4. Familiarity with methods of contemporary philosophical inquiry

## Religious Studies Minor

The Religious Studies minor program is designed for students who want to enhance their understanding of the great religious traditions of the contemporary world and some of the social issues involving these religions. Interested students are invited to contact the Philosophy Department Office for more information and application forms.

Minor Program Learning Objectives:

1. Demonstrate general knowledge of how various disciplines approach religious phenomena and be able to apply a variety of methodological frameworks to data in the field of Religious Studies.
2. Develop basic religious literacy regarding the literary expressions, worldview, historical formations, ritual & practice, sacred texts, material world, and engagement with contemporary issues for several world religions representing diverse cultural backgrounds.
3. Analyze how a religion interacts with the culture to which it belongs, explaining how it shapes and is shaped by its surrounding society.
4. Demonstrate how religions inform, shape, and shed light upon contemporary issues, concerns, and debates.
5. Show how religious diversity contributes to overall diversity on the planet and specifically how Religious Studies advances student attainment of Cal Poly's Diversity Learning Objectives.
6. Understand how religions can both contribute to and detract from the productive harmony between groups (convivencia)

## Western Intellectual Tradition Minor

For information regarding the Western Intellectual Tradition Minor, please see the College of Liberal Arts Interdisciplinary Minors (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofliberalarts/#minortext>) section of the catalog.

## PHIL Courses

### PHIL 101. Introduction to Philosophy. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F

Prerequisite: Philosophy majors only.

Foundational methods and central issues in contemporary philosophy including logic, epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. Advising and orientation to the Philosophy major for freshmen in their first quarter at Cal Poly. 4 lectures.

### PHIL 126. Logic and Argumentative Writing. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU

2020-21 or later catalog: GE Area A3

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area A3

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A2 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area A1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

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. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area A3 with a grade of C- or better.

### PHIL 230. Philosophical Classics: Knowledge and Reality. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU

2020-21 or later catalog: GE Area C2

2019-20 or earlier: GE Area C1 or C2

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better.

Critical examination of primary philosophical works with focus on the nature of reality and the sources and limits of human knowledge. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as HNRS/PHIL 230. Fulfills GE Area C2 (GE Area C1 or GE Area C2 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

### PHIL 231. Philosophical Classics: Ethics and Political Philosophy. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU

2020-21 or later catalog: GE Area C2

2019-20 or earlier: GE Area C1 or C2

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better.

Critical examination of primary philosophical works, with focus on the identification and evaluation of the central ethical, social and political themes and arguments presented in them. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as HNRS/PHIL 231. Fulfills GE Area C2 (GE Area C1 or GE Area C2 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

### PHIL 241. Symbolic Logic. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, SP

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A3 with a grade of C- or better.

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 270. Selected Topics. 1-4 units

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

### PHIL 300. Philosophical Writing and Research. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: PHIL 230 or PHIL 231; and Philosophy major.

Develop writing and research skills by composing a substantial research paper on a specific topic. Revisions based on instructor and peer feedback. Oral presentation of research project. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. 4 lectures.

### PHIL 301. Philosophical Topics. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Examination and analysis of philosophical areas, movements, texts, or figures. Topics may be of historical or contemporary importance. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 16 units. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

### PHIL 309. Early Greek Philosophy through Plato. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Beginnings of Western philosophy and science in Ancient Greece. The Presocratics, Socrates, and Plato. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

### PHIL 310. Aristotle and Hellenistic Philosophy. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Development of Western philosophy and science in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Aristotle, Epicureanism, Stoicism, Skepticism. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 312. Medieval Philosophy. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Development of Western philosophy from Augustine to Ockham, including Anselm, Abelard, Roger Bacon, Bonaventure, Aquinas, and Duns Scotus. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 313. Early Modern Rationalism. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Development of Western philosophy from the late Renaissance through Leibniz, with special emphasis upon the epistemology and metaphysics of the Continental Rationalists. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 314. Early Modern Empiricism. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Development of Western philosophy from the Renaissance through Mill, with special emphasis on British Empiricism. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 315. Kant and 19th Century European Philosophy. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Primary issues and concepts found in German philosophy from 1780 to 1900, with emphasis on Kant, Hegel, and Nietzsche. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 317. History of Analytic Philosophy. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Major developments within 20th 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. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 318. Phenomenology. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Methods and uses of phenomenological analysis through study of 20th century philosophers and contemporary applications. Topics include phenomenological method, perception, meaning, and the role of experience in philosophical inquiry. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 319. Existentialism. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Major existentialist philosophers of the 19th and 20th century such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Merleau-Ponty, and Marcel. Existentialist themes in historical or contemporary context. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 321. Philosophy of Science. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

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. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 322. Philosophy of Technology. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

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. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 323. Ethics, Science and Technology. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Ethical decision-making as applied to issues such as the use of robots, the treatment of animals, sustainability, scientific fraud, feminist analysis of science and technology, as well as questions about whether technology is just a value-neutral tool or, rather, embodies certain values. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as HNRS 325/PHIL 323. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 327. Robot Ethics. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Introduction, short history, and overview of robot (meta)ethics, with applied ethics issues to include programming, environment, military uses, sex, legal implications, risk, liability, diversity, sustainability, healthcare, education, religion, and the home. Finally, future issues of robot rights and personhood. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 328. Technologies and Ethics of Warfare. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Ethics of killing in warfare, including requirements of justice in declaring and waging war. Topics include terrorism, remotely piloted aircraft ('drones'), autonomous weapons ('killer robots'), cyber warfare, nuclear war, city bombing, and humanitarian intervention. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 331. Ethics. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

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. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 332. History of Ethics. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

The history of moral thought from Homer and the Pre-Socratics to the 20th 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. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 333. Political Philosophy. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

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 meta-physics, theory of knowledge, and ethics. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 334. Philosophy of Law. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

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. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 335. Social Ethics. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP, SU

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

USCP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

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. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as PHIL 335/HNRS 336. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and USCP.

**PHIL 336. Feminist Ethics, Gender, Sexuality and Society. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP, SU

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

USCP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Critical examination of the relations between gender, sexuality, ethnicity, society and ethics from feminist perspectives, with special attention paid to problems in contemporary applied ethics. Joint focus on theory and application. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as PHIL/WGQS 336. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and USCP. Formerly WGS 336.

**PHIL 337. Business Ethics. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Critical examination of ethical problems that arise in business. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 339. Biomedical Ethics. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP, SU

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

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. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 340. Environmental Ethics. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: TBD

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Sustainability Focused

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

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. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 341. Professional Ethics. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

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. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).



**PHIL 342. Philosophy of Religion. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

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. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 343. Power, Alienation, and Political Life. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Analysis of social alienation, political resistance, and the interplay between power and individual life in 20th- and 21st-century Continental philosophy. Emphasis on issues such as structural injustice, cultural membership and exclusion, work, media, and the political impact of technology. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 350. Aesthetics. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

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. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 351. Philosophy of Literature. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Analysis of philosophical issues related to literature such as interpretation, authorial intention, linguistic expression, ethical responsibilities of writers and readers, and use of literary styles by philosophers. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 361. Indian Philosophy. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Philosophies developed in South Asia including the metaphysical, epistemological, and logical presuppositions of the six Hindu schools, the Buddhist and Jain schools, and select theistic traditions. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 362. Chinese and East Asian Philosophy. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Philosophies developed in China, Japan and East Asia, including Buddhism, Confucian moral philosophy, Daoist metaphysics and social ecology. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 369. Postmodernism. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Primary issues and developments in European philosophy in the second half of the 20th century. Examination of the influence of postmodern philosophy in areas such as art, literature, architecture, culture studies, philosophy of language, and philosophy of religion. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**PHIL 385. Ethics Bowl. 3 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W

CR/NC

Prerequisite: One of the following: PHIL 231, PHIL 323, PHIL 327, PHIL 328, PHIL 331, PHIL 332, PHIL 333, PHIL 334, PHIL 335, PHIL 336, PHIL 337, PHIL 339, PHIL 340, PHIL 341, or PHIL 439; and completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better.

Preparation for participation in Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl competitions. Preparation and discussion of current competition cases, development of research and presentation skills, and participation in competition. Field trips required. Total credit limited to 12 units. Credit/No Credit grading only. Course offered in hybrid format with classroom-based and online learning. 2 laboratories and competition time.

**PHIL 400. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 1-4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Consent of department chair.

Individual investigation, research, studies or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 8 units, with a maximum of 4 units per quarter.

**PHIL 411. Metaphysics. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: W, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

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.

**PHIL 412. Epistemology. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

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.

**PHIL 421. Philosophy of Space, Time and Matter. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

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.

**PHIL 422. Philosophy of Mind. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F

Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

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.

**PHIL 423. Philosophy of Language. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

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.

**PHIL 429. Special Topics in the History of Philosophy. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

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 Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 16 units. 4 lectures.

**PHIL 439. Selected Problems in Ethics and Political Philosophy. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

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 Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 16 units. 4 lectures.

**PHIL 449. Selected Topics in Recent Philosophy. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

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 Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 16 units. 4 lectures.

**PHIL 459. Senior Project Preparation. 1 unit**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

CR/NC

Prerequisite: Senior standing and consent of instructor; and Philosophy major only.

Group and individual discussion of senior project advisor selection and initial research for senior project. Library research training, completion of exit interview, and career advising for Philosophy majors nearing graduation. Credit/No Credit grading only. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 1 activity.

**PHIL 460. Senior Project I. 1 unit**

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU

CR/NC

Prerequisite: PHIL 241, senior standing, and consent of instructor; Philosophy majors only. Concurrent: PHIL 459.

Selection, initial development, and formulation of a research plan for a project conducted under faculty supervision. Minimum of 30 hours per quarter. Credit/No Credit grading only.

**PHIL 461. Senior Project II. 2 units**

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU

Prerequisite: PHIL 460; Philosophy majors only.

Development and completion of a research project under faculty supervision. Results presented in a formal thesis. Minimum of 60 hours per quarter.

**PHIL 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units**

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. The Class Schedule will list topics selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

## RELS Courses

### RELS 201. Religion, Dialogue, and Society. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later catalog: GE Area D2

2019-20 or earlier: GE Area D2 or D3

Examine how interactions between religious traditions shape society at various levels. Case studies drawn from eastern and western religious traditions during the ancient and modern periods. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area D2 (GE Area D2 or GE Area D3 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

### RELS 205. Jesus. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Exploration and analysis of the person of Jesus. Includes examination of our sources of knowledge about him, his self-understanding, and various interpretations of him in historical, comparative, and contemporary settings. 4 lectures.

### RELS 270. Selected Topics. 1-4 units

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

### RELS 301. Religions of Asia. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Comparative study of the religions of Asia, particularly Hinduism, Buddhism, and the religions of China. Topics include historical continuities/discontinuities, worldviews, sacred texts, practices, responses to modernity, the place of women across the traditions. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

### RELS 302. Abrahamic Religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

An introduction to the global religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, with a focus on their shared origin in the Patriarch Abraham. Topics include for each religion: the origins, worldview, scripture, practices, and relationship to modernity. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

### RELS 304. Judaism. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Origins, beliefs and practices of Judaism and central themes in the Hebrew Bible. The development of Judaism in the post-biblical and Talmudic period. Jewish philosophy, life, rituals and customs. The emergence of modern Judaism, Zionism and post-Holocaust philosophy. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

### RELS 306. Hinduism. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Origins, beliefs and practices of Hinduism from the Veda and the Upanishads through the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita and the Puranas. Modern Hindu institutions, saints and sages, and social philosophy contrasted with the ancient. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

### RELS 307. Buddhism. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Buddhist origins, viewpoints and practices will be seen in their development in India, Tibet, China, Japan, South Asia and America. The life of Buddha, Gautama, the rise of Theravada, Mahayana and Tantra. Encounters with Shinto and Confucianism. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

### RELS 310. Christianity. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

The development of the Christian religion from the story of Jesus, the New Testament, Church formation, the role of St. Paul, dissenting ideas, Protestant and Catholic views, and contemporary issues of conscience, such as the Social Gospel and liberation theologies. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).



**RELS 311. Islam. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

The development of Islamic civilization from the inspiration of the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad and the Sunni-Shi'i split to contemporary political and social issues. Emphasis of Sufi literature, art, architecture, and philosophies of Islam. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**RELS 344. Approaches to Religion and Spirituality. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area D

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area D5

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and one course in GE Area D2 (or in GE Area D3 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs) or in GE Area E (or in GE Area D4 for students on the 2017-19 or earlier catalogs).

Examination of religion from an academic perspective by surveying the various historical approaches employed within the discipline of religious studies to collect, analyze, and interpret religious phenomena cross-culturally. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division D (GE Area D5 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**RELS 370. Religion, Gender, and Society. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SPSU

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

USCP

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Critical examination of religious ideas and institutions in the United States. Focus on interlocking systems of sex, gender, race, class and religion; individual and group experiences at the intersection of religion, politics and culture. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as RELS/WGQS 370. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and USCP. Formerly WGS 370.

**RELS 372. Spiritual Extremism: Asceticism, Mysticism, and Madness. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Shaping influence of ascetics, mystics and the insane on global religious traditions. Topics may include the relationship between spiritual extremists and society, cultural construction of holiness and insanity, and literary depictions of spiritual extremists. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**RELS 374. Religion and Violence. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Historical and contemporary case studies of how various religions have condoned, motivated and justified violence. The place of sacrifice, martyrdom, self-injury and forced conversion in religious doctrines. Representations of religious violence in the media. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**RELS 378. Religion and Contemporary Values. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and completion of GE Area C2.

Descriptive analysis of how diverse religious traditions construct moral decisions about a variety of contemporary issues including sexuality, ecology, and justice. Challenges for religious value systems in secular and pluralistic societies. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**RELS 380. Religion and Politics in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better.

Recommended: Completion of one class in POLS or RELS.

The root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its current manifestation. Possibilities for solutions from the perspectives of religious studies and political science. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as POLS/RELS 380.

**RELS 390. Topics in Religious Studies. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, SP

2020-21 or later: Upper-Div GE Area C

2019-20 or earlier catalog: GE Area C4

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; one course in GE Area B4 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B1 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs); and one lower-division course in GE Area C.

Examination and analysis of religious and spiritual themes and traditions. Topics may be of historical or contemporary importance. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 16 units. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division C (GE Area C4 for students on the 2019-20 or earlier catalogs).

**RELS 400. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 1-4 units**

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Consent of department chair and instructor.

Individual investigation, research, studies or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 4 units.

**RELS 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units**

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. The Class Schedule will list topics selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

**RELS 490. Advanced Topics in Religious Studies. 4 units**

Term Typically Offered: SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; and completion of GE Area C2.

An in-depth examination and analysis of specific religious and spiritual themes, traditions, texts, and figures. Topics may be of historical or contemporary importance. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 16 units; repeatable in the same term. 4 lectures.