

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

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 an optional concentration in Ethics and Society, and a curriculum leading to a minor in Philosophy. The department also offers courses and a minor in Religious Studies. 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), and courses that deal with the philosophical issues arising in other disciplines (e.g., philosophy of art and philosophy of science).

Concentrations

Students may choose to complete 20 units of 300-400 level philosophy courses *or* the concentration.

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.

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, and 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.

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. The minor consists of 24 units. Interested students are invited to contact the Philosophy Department Office for more information and application forms.

PHIL Courses

PHIL 101. Introduction to Philosophy. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F

Foundational methods and central issues in contemporary philosophy including logic, epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. Required of all philosophy majors. Open to all majors and philosophy minors. 4 lectures. NOTE: This is not a GE course and will not count for GE credit.

PHIL 126. Logic and Argumentative Writing. 4 units

GE Area A3

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A1 with a grade of C- or better.

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. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE A3; for students admitted Fall 2016 or later a grade of C- or better is required to fulfill GE Area A3.

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

GE Area C2

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; or for PHIL majors GE Area A3 with a grade of C- or better. Recommended: PHIL 126.

Critical examination of primary philosophical texts, from the ancient and modern periods, with focus on the nature of reality and the sources and limits of human knowledge. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as HNRS/PHIL 230. Fulfills GE C2.

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

GE Area C2

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; or for PHIL majors GE Area A3 with a grade of C- or better. Recommended: PHIL 126.

Readings from primary philosophical texts, from the ancient and modern periods, with focus on the identification, evaluation and contemporary relevance of the central ethical and political themes and arguments presented in them. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as HNRS/PHIL 231. Fulfills GE C2.

PHIL 241. Symbolic Logic. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F, W

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 Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

PHIL 285. Ethics Bowl. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: F

Prerequisite: One of the following: PHIL 231, 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 a grade of C- or better.

Preparation for competition in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl. Rules and format of competition, analysis and preparation of cases specific to the current year's competition. Coverage of ethical theory relevant to current cases. Field trips required. 4 lectures.

PHIL 309. Early Greek Philosophy through Plato. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Area C2.

Beginnings of Western philosophy and science in Ancient Greece. The Presocratics, Socrates, and Plato. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 310. Aristotle and Hellenistic Philosophy. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: F

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Area C2.

Development of Western philosophy and science in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Aristotle, Epicureanism, Stoicism, Skepticism. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 312. Medieval Philosophy. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: F

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 313. Early Modern Rationalism. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 314. Early Modern Empiricism. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Area C2.

Development of Western philosophy from the Renaissance through Mill, with special emphasis on British Empiricism. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

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

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 317. History of Analytic Philosophy. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 318. Phenomenology. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: F

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 319. Existentialism. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 320. Asian Philosophy. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Area C2.

Philosophies developed in India, South Asia, China and Japan, including the logical and epistemological presuppositions of the Six Schools of Hindu metaphysics, Buddhist philosophy, Confucian moral philosophy, Taoist metaphysics and social ecology. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 321. Philosophy of Science. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: F, W

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 322. Philosophy of Technology. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 323. Ethics, Science and Technology. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 327. Robot Ethics. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 328. Technologies and Ethics of Warfare. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: F

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Area C2. 4 lectures.

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. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 331. Ethics. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 332. History of Ethics. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 333. Political Philosophy. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 334. Philosophy of Law. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 335. Social Ethics. 4 units

GE Area C4; USCP

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as PHIL 335/HNRS 336. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors. Fulfills USCP.

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

GE Area C4; USCP

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as PHIL/WGS 336. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors. Fulfills USCP.

PHIL 337. Business Ethics. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Area C2.

Critical examination of ethical problems that arise in business. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 339. Biomedical Ethics. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: F, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 340. Environmental Ethics. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 341. Professional Ethics. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 342. Philosophy of Religion. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 343. Continental Political Philosophy. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Area C2.

Analysis of political thought in major movements in 20th- and 21st-century European philosophy, such as deconstruction, existentialism, and phenomenology. Emphasis on political issues, such as cultural membership, exclusion, structural injustice, secularism, and the political impact of technology. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 350. Aesthetics. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 351. Philosophy of Literature. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Areas C1 and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 369. Postmodernism. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 385. Advanced Ethics Bowl. 2 units

CR/NC

Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP

Prerequisite: PHIL 285.

Preparation for ongoing 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. 2 lectures. Total credit limited to 6 units. Credit/No Credit grading only.

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

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: SP

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: W

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: 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 Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. 4 lectures.

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

Term Typically Offered: W

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 Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. 4 lectures.

PHIL 449. Selected Topics in Recent Philosophy. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: TBD

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 Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units credit; may be repeated in same term. 4 lectures.

PHIL 451. Ethics in the Sciences. 3 units

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing.

The practice, performance and application of science from the standpoint of ethics. Includes issues involving plagiarism, data handling, fraud, safety and selected applications in specific science careers. Models for the analysis and resolution of ethical dilemmas are presented. 3 seminars. Crosslisted as PHIL/SCM 451.

PHIL 460. Senior Project I. 2 units

CR/NC

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU

Prerequisite: PHIL 225 or PHIL 241, senior standing, and consent of instructor; Philosophy majors only.

Selection, development and completion of a project under faculty supervision. Results presented in a formal thesis. Minimum of 60 hours per quarter. PHIL 460 is graded on a CR/NC basis.

PHIL 461. Senior Project II. 2 units

Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU

Prerequisite: PHIL 460; student must also receive a passing score on the senior examination in order to enroll in PHIL 461; Philosophy majors only.

Selection, development and completion of a project under faculty supervision. Results presented in a formal thesis. Minimum of 60 hours per quarter. Work in PHIL 461 is given a letter grade.

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. Class Schedule will list topics selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1-4 lectures.

RELS Courses**RELS 201. Religion, Dialogue, and Society. 4 units**

GE Area D3

Term Typically Offered: F

The way in which interactions between religious traditions shape society at various levels. Case studies drawn from eastern and western religious traditions during the ancient and modern periods. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE D3.

RELS 205. Jesus. 4 units

Term Typically Offered: 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 Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

RELS 301. Religions of Asia. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4.

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

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: F, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4.

RELS 304. Judaism. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: F

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4.

RELS 306. Hinduism. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 307. Buddhism. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4.

RELS 310. Christianity. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4.

RELS 311. Islam. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4.

RELS 344. Approaches to Religion and Spirituality. 4 units

GE Area D5

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and GE Area D3 or D4.

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 D5.

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

GE Area C4; USCP

Term Typically Offered: F, SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as RELS/WGS 370. Fulfills GE C4 and USCP.

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

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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 C4.

RELS 374. Religion and Violence. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: F, W

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 376. Religion, Science and Technology. 4 units

GE Area F

Term Typically Offered: W

Prerequisite: completion of GE area B and Junior standing.

Interdisciplinary investigation of relationships between religion, science and technology, including the ethical implications of various technologies. Topics may include human origins, medical technology, environment, reproduction, social media and emerging technologies. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE area F.

RELS 378. Religion and Contemporary Values. 4 units

GE Area C4

Term Typically Offered: SP

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with a grade of C- or better; and 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. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4.

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

Term Typically Offered: TBD

Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A with a grade 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 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: SP

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

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