

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

For a complete description of  
philosophy courses,

visit <http://seaver.pepperdine.edu/humanities>.

**PHIL 200. Introduction to Philosophy (4)** Studies the general characteristics of philosophy as a field of knowledge and a method of inquiry. The course is designed to consider carefully some important solutions to such problems as knowledge, reality, and ethics.

**PHIL 290. Logic (4)** An examination of techniques for determining the validity of arguments. Includes a discussion of informal fallacies, Aristotelian logic, and symbolic logic.

**PHIL 300. Ancient Philosophy (4)** The development of Western philosophic thought from its inception in Greece up to the Hellenistic period. Includes the study of the great thinkers from Thales to Sextus Empiricus, with special emphasis on Plato and Aristotle.

**PHIL 310. Modern Philosophy (4)** The development of philosophic thought from the Enlightenment to the nineteenth century. Includes the study of the great thinkers from Francis Bacon to Kant.

**PHIL 311. Foundations of Political Theory (4)** A study of common origins of thought in economics, sociology, and political science from classical times to the present. Special attention is given to the concept of the dynamics of political, social, and economic activity in human society at various periods in history to reveal the development and interdependence of each of these areas. Course emphasizes primary sources such as Plato, Machiavelli, Locke, and Marx. (Same as POSC 311.)

**PHIL 320. Ethics (4)** A critical examination and evaluation of major ethical thinkers and theories including virtue theory, deontology, and utilitarianism.

**PHIL 340. Traditional Chinese Thought and Society (4)** A study of traditional Chinese thought from ancient and classical China through the Ming Dynasty (A.D. 1644). The traditions of Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism will be considered in their social, political, and intellectual contexts and through their ethical impact. Special emphasis on the natural and the moral order, good men and the society, change and immutability, and truth and rationality. (Same as ASIA 340.) (GE)

**PHIL 410. Business Ethics (4)** The primary aim of this course is to help students acquire skills in the analysis of ethical problems in the business world. (Same as BA 410.)

**PHIL 500. Major Figures in Philosophy (4)** An in-depth study of representative texts of a major philosopher, e.g. Plato, Aristotle, Kant, or Descartes. May be repeated when figure varies.

**PHIL 516. Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Political Thought (4)** This class examines the major philosophical ideas of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and will primarily stress the development of the twentieth-century totalitarian movements and the problems confronting the realization and maintenance of individual freedom and democratic governmental systems. (Same as POSC 516.)

**PHIL 518. Existentialism (4)** Students will explore several of the major works of existential writers during the term. Writers to be considered will include Kierkegaard, Sartre, Camus, and others. Works will not be limited exclusively to philosophical works; novels and plays may also be included.

**PHIL 523. American Philosophy (4)** A study of some of the major works of the classical American philosophical tradition, including transcendentalism and pragmatism, with special focus on the works of Peirce, James, and Dewey.

**PHIL 527. Philosophy of Religion (4)** A study of philosophical perceptions of God, religious experience, revelation, faith and reason, religious language, religion and ethics, evil, and death and eschatology. (Same as REL 527.) (GE)

**PHIL 532. Christian History and Theology II: Reformation and Modern (4)** A survey of Christian history and theology from 1517 to the present, with special emphasis on the major social, cultural, and theological developments within Christianity or that have had significant impact on Christianity. Prerequisites for undergraduates: REL 101, REL 102, REL 301. (Same as REL 532.)

**PHIL 580. Major Philosophical Problems Seminar (4)** An examination of a major theme or problem in philosophy, to be determined by the instructor. This course is to act as the capstone course for the philosophy major. Students will be responsible for presenting a formal paper in the class. May be repeated when topic varies. (WL, RM, PS).

**PHIL 590. Topics in Philosophy (4)** An examination of a major topic or theme in philosophy to be determined by instructor. May be repeated when topic varies.

**PHIL 592. Selected Topics (1-4)**

**PHIL 599. Directed Studies (1-4)** Consent of divisional chairperson is required.

Philosophy Program Coordinator:  
Dr. Caleb Clanton  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Prospective or current students who have questions about the Philosophy program should contact the Humanities & Teacher Education Division at (310) 506-4225.



# PHILOSOPHY

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Seaver College  
of Letters, Arts, and Sciences

The philosophy major is designed to offer students a broad education in historical and contemporary philosophical explorations of various regions of human experience, including the nature of knowledge and reality, the theoretical foundations of morality and ethics, and the distinction between cogent and fallacious reasoning. Philosophy examines the fundamental assumptions and problems implicit in the framework of human experience, critically assesses those assumptions, and seeks to articulate and defend alternatives for their improvement. Consequently, the philosophy major offers students a valuable educational background for the pursuit of careers in law, journalism, government, public service, and business.



# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Two lower-division and seven upper-division four-unit courses are required for the philosophy major. An upper-division course from another program or division may count toward the philosophy major if the course is pertinent to the philosophy major and if it has been approved by the philosophy faculty and the chairperson of the Humanities and Teacher Education Division. Students who have completed the Great Books sequence (GS 121, GS 122, GS 123, and GS 324) will have satisfied the distribution requirement of PHIL 200 and may opt to take another philosophy course in its place.

### LOWER-DIVISION COURSES: 8 UNITS

- PHIL 200 Introduction to Philosophy (4)
- PHIL 290 Logic (4)

### UPPER-DIVISION COURSES: 16 UNITS

- PHIL 300 Ancient Philosophy (4)
- PHIL 310 Modern Philosophy (4)
- PHIL 320 Ethics (4)
- PHIL 580 Major Phil. Problems Seminar (4)

Choose 12 units of upper-division philosophy electives to bring the total number of courses to nine.

# BUSINESS EMPHASIS FOR PHILOSOPHY MAJORS:

Philosophy students interested in pursuing business careers should take certain business-related courses in addition to their major. These courses should assist them in entering MBA programs or in finding employment upon graduation. Copies of this list are on file in the Humanities and Teacher Education Division office.

## MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY

### LOWER-DIVISION COURSES: 8 UNITS

- PHIL 200 Introduction to Philosophy (4)
- PHIL 290 Logic (4)

### UPPER-DIVISION COURSES: 12 UNITS

- PHIL 300 Ancient Philosophy (4)
- PHIL 310 Modern Philosophy (4)
- One ELECTIVE course in Philosophy (4)

## PHI SIGMA TAU



The Humanities and Teacher Education Division sponsors a chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, the national honor society of philosophy. Phi Sigma Tau recognizes excellence in scholarship and promotes philosophical discussion outside of the classroom through informal events. The national honor society publishes the bi-annual

journal, *Dialogue*, which provides undergraduate students in philosophy the opportunity to be published. The national office of Phi Sigma Tau is now located at Pepperdine University.