

# PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy is a cooperative program with Scripps College and Harvey Mudd College.

## Majors in Philosophy

There are several different ways of completing a philosophy major. Regardless of the type of philosophy major they choose, all philosophy majors are required to plan their programs in consultation with a member of the philosophy department. Thus, a student who decides to major in philosophy in any of the ways described should obtain a member of the philosophy department as advisor and should plan courses of study in consultation with that person.

For students who may be especially interested in the area of *Philosophy and Public Affairs* – perhaps with career goals in law, government, or business – a special program of study which integrate philosophy with government and/or economics can be designed by students and their departmental advisor.

Students interested in law or business are encouraged to supplement this major in philosophy by completing the dual major in *Legal Studies*. The college also offers an *Ethics Sequence*, available to all students, regardless of major.

## Philosophy Major Requirements

Students who wish to use philosophy as the basis for a liberal arts education, or who aim to do graduate work in philosophy, take a minimum of nine courses in philosophy, distributed as follows:

1. • **Philosophy 90. Introduction to Philosophy**, or  
• **Philosophy 91. Philosophical Problems** or the equivalent
2. **One course in logic**
3. **Philosophy 198. Senior Seminar**, to be completed in the senior year
4. **At least two courses in the history of philosophy**; appropriate courses include:
  - **Philosophy 112. History of Philosophy: Ancient**
  - **Philosophy 115. History of Philosophy: 19th-Century Philosophies of Revolution and Evolution**,
  - **Philosophy 117. 20th-Century Philosophy**
  - **Philosophy 118. History of Philosophy: Descartes to Kant**
5. **At least two courses in ethics, metaphysics, theory of knowledge, or other systematic sub-fields.**
6. **Electives.** Additional elective courses as appropriate to complete the major.

## Philosophy and Public Affairs Major Requirements

Twelve courses are normally required in this option, distributed as follows:

1. • **Philosophy 90. Introduction to Philosophy**, or  
• **Philosophy 91. Philosophical Problems** or the equivalent
2. **One course in logic**
3. **Philosophy 198. Senior Seminar**, to be completed in the senior year
4. **One course in ethical theory**, chosen in consultation with the advisor
5. **Three philosophy electives**, to be selected in consultation with the departmental advisor
6. **Five courses in government and/or economics**, to be selected in consultation with the departmental advisor.

## Senior Thesis in Philosophy

The senior thesis is a general education requirement and should serve as a capstone experience to a student's undergraduate education. Students must complete a senior thesis in at

least one of their major areas under supervision of a faculty reader who teaches within that major, unless granted a special exception.

Students interested in doing a two-semester thesis project complete a one-half credit or full credit seminar or independent study project in the first semester and the senior thesis in the second semester. The senior thesis and any thesis seminar or independent study courses may not be counted as courses in the major. For further information on the senior thesis, see *Statement of Academic Policy*.

## Special Options for Majors

### **Dual Majors**

Students who wish to supplement a major in another field - for example, economics, government, history, literature, or psychology - with substantial philosophical study, are encouraged to complete a dual major.

Dual majors in philosophy must take at least seven courses in philosophy, including:

1. • **Philosophy 90. Introduction to Philosophy**, or
  - **Philosophy 91. Philosophical Problems** or the equivalent
2. **One course in logic**
3. **One course in the history of philosophy**
4. **One course in a systematic sub-field of philosophy**
5. **Philosophy 198. Senior Seminar**, to be completed in the senior year
6. **Two philosophy electives**, to be selected in consultation with the departmental advisor

Students with a dual major including philosophy are encouraged to write their *senior thesis* on a topic in their major. For further information, see “Senior Thesis in Philosophy” above.

Please note the restrictions on honors in the major for students with a dual major under “Honors in Philosophy” below. For further information on dual majors and the requirements for the other field of study of the dual major, please check the appropriate sections of this catalog.

### **Honors in Philosophy**

To be eligible for honors in philosophy, students must complete a major in philosophy, earn a grade point average of 10.50 or better in major courses, and must be voted honors by the members of the department.

Students with a *dual major* in philosophy who wish to be considered for *honors* in philosophy will only receive honors if they:

- have completed all requirements for a *full major* in philosophy and are granted honors, or
- qualify and receive honors in both fields of their *dual major*. See “Honors in the Major” for details.

## General Education Requirement Information

CMC courses meeting the general education requirement in philosophy include: 90, 91, 101, 102, 112, 115, 117, 118, 135, 158, and 170.

For the general education requirement in the *social sciences* and the *humanities*, CMC students majoring in philosophy must take designated courses in three of the four fields of the social sciences (economics, government, history, and psychology), and in three of the four fields of the humanities (literature, philosophy, religious studies, and literature in a foreign language). Philosophy majors with a dual or double major in either the humanities or the social sciences will be required to take an additional general education course in those categories. For further information, see “Degree Requirements.”

Students with the interdisciplinary a major in *philosophy and public affairs*, which requires courses in the humanities and social sciences, are required to take designated courses in six different fields of the humanities and social sciences for the general education requirements.

Majors usually take courses in three of the four fields of the social sciences (economics, government, history and psychology) and in three fields of the humanities (literature, philosophy, religious studies, and literature in a foreign language). Majors may take four social sciences (economics, government, history, and psychology) and two humanities. Majors are typically required to take Economics 50, Government 20 and Philosophy 90. Students with a dual or double major in philosophy and public affairs and another field in the social sciences or humanities will usually be required to take an additional course. For further information, see “Degree Requirements.”

## Courses in Philosophy at the other Claremont Colleges

Philosophy majors are encouraged to consider taking philosophy courses at one of the other Claremont Colleges. To make sure they complete the appropriate requirements for the major they should consult the philosophy department chair. For further information and descriptions, please check appropriate college catalogs and course schedules.

## Study Abroad

All CMC students have the opportunity to apply for study abroad during the junior year. Students planning to study philosophy abroad should consult with the chair of the philosophy department to determine which off-campus courses will be accepted by the Department. Please consult the chair of the philosophy department for further information.

## The Faculty

Professors: Davis (Chair), Kucheman, Moss (on leave, second semester), and Roth (on leave, AY); Associate Professors: Gilbert, Humes, and Kind (on leave, first semester); Assistant Professor: Rajczi; Visiting Assistant Professors: Vilhauer, and Williams

## Courses

### *Introductory Philosophy Courses*

*(these courses meet the general education requirement in philosophy)*

#### **90. Introduction to Philosophy.**

An introduction to philosophical problems and methods through the reading of works by major philosophers such as Plato, Descartes, Hume, Kant, and Nietzsche. Recommended for students without previous background in philosophy. First and second semester. Staff

#### **91. Philosophical Problems.**

An introduction to philosophy by way of selected philosophical problems in both ethics and metaphysics. Readings will be drawn from both historical and contemporary sources. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

#### **101. Political and Social Philosophy.**

A study of normative criteria for answering questions about political obligation - including civil disobedience - and about the right order and use of political power. Readings from traditional and contemporary sources. Second semester. Kucheman

#### **102. Theories of History.**

This course examines the nature of philosophy and history and their interrelations. Accounts of the past - including speculative philosophies of history - are considered critically in terms of the methodological problems they involve, the meaning of “explanation,” “causal connection,” “unit of interpretation,” “historical generalization,” and “objectivity” as distinguished from “subjectivity.” Also listed as History 113. First semester. Moss

#### **112. History of Philosophy: Ancient.**

The following movements and figures in ancient philosophy are considered: the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Skepticism. Second semester. Davis

#### **115. History of Philosophy: The 19th-Century Philosophies of Revolution and Evolution.**

An examination of the origin and development of 19th-century philosophies of German idealism, existentialism, Marxism, positivism, utilitarianism, and evolution. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**117. 20th-Century Philosophy.**

An examination of the development of Western philosophical thought through the 20th century. Particular attention will be paid to the split between the analytic tradition prevalent in Anglo-American philosophy and the continental tradition prevalent in European philosophy. Philosophers to be studied include Husserl, Frege, Russell, Heidegger, Wittgenstein, Quine, Derrida, and Davidson. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**118. History of Philosophy: Descartes to Kant.**

An examination of the development of British and Continental philosophies from the 16th through the 18th centuries. Readings include the writings of Bacon, Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, and Kant. First semester. Vilhauer

**113. Philosophy of Science.**

The philosophical themes this course will investigate include: the scientific method, the difference between science and pseudoscience, explanation, the nature of scientific laws, the role of observation, confirmation and progress. Readings will bring together classic texts by Francis Bacon and René Descartes, as well as contemporary works by Carl G. Hempel, Sir Karl Popper, Thomas S. Kuhn, Imre Lakatos, W.V. Quine, Wesley Salmon, Nancy Cartwright, Hilary Putnam, and Bas C. van Fraassen. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**135. Philosophy of Mind.**

An exploration of problems concerning the nature of the mind. The main topic of the course will be the mind-body problem: Is there a mind (or a soul) that is distinct from the body? Related topics include: What is the nature of consciousness? Can computers think? How can we know of the existence of other minds? (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**158. Ethical Theory.**

This course will address the question "Why be moral?" That question will lead to more fundamental questions about the nature of rational decision-making. Must rational decisions aim at happiness? One's own happiness, or everyone's? Is aiming at happiness compatible with acting from moral obligation? How do moral obligations gain their force, through intellect or emotion? How can we reason together about how to live? Both historical and contemporary readings. First semester. Rajczi

**170. Philosophy of Religion.**

An examination of questions such as: (1) Can God's existence be proved? (2) Is religious faith ever rationally warranted? (3) Are religious propositions cognitively meaningful? (4) Can one believe in a good, omnipotent God in a world containing evil? Readings from historical and contemporary sources. Also listed as Religious Studies 143. Second semester. Davis

*Elective Philosophy Courses*

*(philosophy majors may use these courses as electives in the major)*

**105. The Holocaust.**

An interdisciplinary examination of the antecedents, realities, and implications of the Nazi attempt to exterminate the Jews. Also listed as Religious Studies 146. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**107. The Social Contract.**

A survey of the social contract tradition in political philosophy, with emphasis on its ability to account for political obligation. The approach is both historical and systematic. In addition to reading Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Rousseau, and Kant on the social contract, we will consider contemporary strands of Hobbesian contractarianism (Gauthier, Binmore) and Kantian contractualism (Rawls, Scanlon). (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**119. Philosophical Roots of European Fascism.**

An examination of the philosophical roots of European fascism, with emphasis on German and Italian thought. The fascist movement is considered as part of the Romantic rebellion against Enlightenment ideologies. The writings of Kant, Fichte, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Croce, Gentile, and Hitler are studied. Also listed as Government 165e. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**122. Perspectives on the American Dream: Philosophical, Literary, Religious, Political.**

An interdisciplinary examination of American ideals, past and present, as they appear in theory and in practice. The readings - fiction as well as nonfiction - are by a variety of important historical and contemporary writers. Also listed as Religious Studies 147. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**124. Existentialism.**

The central themes of existential philosophy include some of the most persistent unresolved questions of European culture in the last two centuries. What constitutes authentic individuality? What is our

relation to the divine? How can one live a meaningful life? What is the significance of death? Are human beings free? In this course, such issues will be pursued from Rousseau through the beginning of existentialism in 19th-century thinkers like Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, down to the 20th-century French and Christian existentialism. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**147. Rhetoric and Reasoning.**

What is it to reason with others? How can a speaker get her hearer to believe or do what she wants him to believe or do simply by speaking to him? What is it to do this in the way characteristic of reasoning with him, as opposed to mere manipulation? This course surveys recent work in philosophy of language, epistemology, and ethics on the subject of interpersonal reasoning. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**152. Theories of the Good Life.**

An examination of views of the good life and how it may be achieved. The emphasis is upon ideal personal values and life styles. Readings from traditional and non-traditional sources. Students are asked to develop their own views as to what constitutes the good life as they see it. Seniors only. Second semester. S. Smith

**153. Leaders and Followers: Social and Personal Ethics.**

Focusing on historical examples from politics, economics, religion, and other fields, this course explores moral dilemmas - social and personal - that result from the interactions of leaders and followers. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**155. Bioethics.**

An exploration of ethical issues arising in the biological sciences and in the practice of medicine. Topics discussed include abortion, euthanasia, human experimentation, genetic and reproductive intervention, and allocation of scarce medical resources. Intended especially but not exclusively for juniors and seniors concentrating in pre-medicine, biology, or philosophy. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**175. Life, Death, and Survival of Death.**

A study of philosophical and theological answers to questions about death and the meaning of life. Also listed as Religious Studies 144. First semester. Davis

**179. Researching the Holocaust.**

An interdisciplinary, team-taught exploration of research and reflection on the cutting-edge of current issues and debates surrounding Nazi Germany's attempt to annihilate the Jews. In a seminar-style inquiry designed for students who want to take their previous Holocaust studies to a more advanced level, attention focuses on film and internet resources, as well as on recent books and articles. Also listed as History 179 and Religious Studies 159. Prerequisite: Acceptance of application to instructors. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**184. Philosophy and Literature.**

How is it possible to learn from fiction? How can fiction give the reader reason to believe, or the ability to discern, anything new and interesting about the non-fictional world? We will look at the work of several authors who have not only claimed such cognitive power for their fictions but also offered some reflections on the nature of the knowledge thereby granted. How should we compare such knowledge to the knowledge generated by philosophy? (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**196. Ethics, Economics, and Public Policy.**

A study of moral and economic theories as they relate to public policy. Topics may include the moral and economic implications of governmentally sponsored universal health care, welfare reform, progressive taxation and the redistribution of wealth and/or income, and equality of opportunity. Also listed as Economics 109. Prerequisite: Economics 50. First semester. Kucheman and Wright

*Advanced Philosophy Courses (designed for philosophy majors)*

**131. Hegel and Marx.**

A study of the thought of Karl Marx in relation to the philosophy of G.W.F. Hegel. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**137. Skepticism.**

Philosophers have challenged your most fundamental claims to knowledge: that your thoughts and utterances really have meaning (or the meanings you think they have), that your friends and neighbors have minds like yours, even that there really is a world outside your mind. Though the conclusion that you don't know these things appears ridiculous, some of the arguments are very hard to refute. Does this show philosophy is just an intellectual game? Or does the tension reveal something important about human existence? (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**139. Language and Reality.**

An exploration of issues in the philosophy of language and, in particular, the relation between language and the world. Topics to be discussed include: the nature of meaning, the nature of thought, and the reference of proper names and definite descriptions. Readings will be drawn primarily from late 19th-century and 20th-century sources. Prerequisite: at least one previous course in philosophy or permission of instructor. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**145. Fundamentals of Logic.**

An introduction to formal techniques for evaluating arguments. These techniques include truth tables, natural deduction for propositional logic, natural deduction for predicate logic, and introductory model theory. The goal of the course is not only for students to develop skill with these formal systems, but also for them to develop an understanding of what it means to reason logically. Second semester. Kind

**180. Metaphysics.**

An investigation of some traditional problems in Western philosophy that have been labeled metaphysical, e.g. the existence of God, the relationship between mind and body, the determinism-free will debate, and the nature of space and time. Prerequisite: at least one previous course in philosophy or permission of instructor. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**182. Aesthetics.**

This course includes a systematic discussion of fundamental concepts and their interrelations in aesthetics and philosophy of art criticism. Topics such as the status and function of "the beautiful," the genres, form and content, art truth, and morality are treated in regard to traditional theories. (Not offered in 2004-2005.)

**198. Senior Seminar in Philosophy.**

Readings and discussions centered around important topics of current philosophical interest. Required of Claremont McKenna College senior philosophy majors; admission to others by permission of instructor. First semester. Williams

*Independent Study Courses***199. Independent Study in Philosophy.**

Students who have the necessary qualifications and who wish to investigate an area of study not covered in regularly scheduled courses may arrange for independent study under the direction of a faculty reader. (See "Academic Policies and Procedures" for details.) First and second semester. Staff

## PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS (PPE)

The Tutorial Program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) at Claremont McKenna College is a specially designed, enrollment limited, interdisciplinary major. It is adapted from a similar program at Oxford University and makes use of small seminars and tutorials to encourage students to develop their expository skills. Students **apply for acceptance** into the program in the fall of their sophomore year and usually start the program in the spring semester of the sophomore year. Participating students are designated as the "Edward J. Sexton PPE Fellows," in recognition of a major endowment gift to support the program, and receive a small grant for educational expenses

The academic coordinator of the program is Professor Elliott. Inquiries may also be addressed to Professor Blomberg.

### Major Requirements

The major in PPE requires at least nine courses, distributed as follows:

- 1. Prerequisites:** There are **three** prerequisites for the program:
  - **Economics 50. Principles of Economic Analysis**
  - **Government 20. Introduction to American Politics**
  - **Philosophy 90. Introduction to Philosophy**

Normally, the prerequisites for the program should be completed by the end of the fall