

PHILOSOPHY

Majors in Philosophy

The study of philosophy addresses some of the most basic and important questions with which we are confronted, and which are central to a liberal arts education — questions ranging from the nature of knowledge to the nature of morality to the nature of reality itself. Moreover, the study of philosophy assists in the development of one's analytical, critical and interpretative skills and, as such, provides an excellent foundation for students no matter what career path they intend to pursue.

The study of philosophy has been long known to provide an especially good background for the study of law. Students who are interested in a legal career might consider supplementing a major in philosophy with a *Legal Studies* dual major. Students with a special interest in public affairs, perhaps with career goals in law, government or business, are encouraged to pursue a major in *Philosophy and Public Affairs*. This program allows students to design a specialized course plan which integrates the study of philosophy with the study of government and/or economics.

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 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 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 the capstone experience of a student's undergraduate education. Students must complete a senior thesis in at least one of their majors 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 thesis research course in the first semester and the senior thesis in the second semester. The senior thesis and the thesis research course may not be counted as courses in the major.

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.

Students with a dual major including philosophy must take at least seven courses in philosophy, including:

1. **Philosophy 90. Introduction to Philosophy** 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 philosophy. 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 discipline 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* including 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 disciplines of their dual major*. See “Academic Honors at Graduation” for details.

General Education Requirement Information

Philosophy requirement: all CMC courses listed as *Introductory Philosophy Courses* fulfill the College’s general education requirement in philosophy.

Philosophy majors: 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 “Academic Policies and Procedures.”

Philosophy and Public Affairs majors: 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 “Academic Policies and Procedures.”

Courses in Philosophy at The 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

CMC Faculty: Davis, Gilbert (chair), Humes, Hurley (on leave, second semester), Kind (on leave, first semester), Kucheman, Moss, Obdrzalek, Rajczi, and Roth (on leave, second semester).

Adjunct Faculty: Figdor, Fowler, Horn, and Shimkhada.

Courses

INTRODUCTORY PHILOSOPHY COURSES

(these courses meet the general education requirement in philosophy)

90. Introduction to Philosophy. *Staff*

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. Offered every year.

92. Contemporary Moral Issues. *Rajczi*

This course challenges students to critically evaluate some of the most difficult moral problems facing society. It provides an introduction to the problems themselves and to the logical methods that enable us to better resolve them. Specific topics may include: sexual morality, war and terrorism, capital punishment, abortion,

human cloning, environmental ethics, and animal rights. Offered every other year.

93. Introduction to Philosophy and Public Affairs. *Rajczi*

This course introduces students to the subject of Philosophy and Public Affairs by challenging them to rethink and make consistent their opinions on matters of state intervention and public policy. The principal question of the course is: what activities may the state rightly interfere with? Specific topics may include whether the state can legitimately criminalize or otherwise interfere with obscenity; pornography; offensive or hateful conduct; consensual sexual conduct, including homosexual behavior and consensual prostitution; voluntary euthanasia; and private but personally harmful conduct, such as drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking. Offered every other year.

101. Political and Social Philosophy. *Kucheman*

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. Offered every year.

102. Theories of History. *Moss*

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. Offered every other year.

112. History of Philosophy: Ancient. *Davis*

The following movements and figures in ancient philosophy are considered: the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Skepticism. Offered every year.

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

An examination of the origin and development of 19th-century philosophies of German idealism, existentialism, Marxism, positivism, utilitarianism, and evolution. Offered every other year.

117. 20th-Century Philosophy. *Moss*

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. Offered every third year.

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

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. Offered every year.

133. Philosophy of Science. Staff

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. Offered every third year.

135. Philosophy of Mind. Staff

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? Offered every other year.

170. Philosophy of Religion. Davis

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. Offered every year.

ELECTIVE PHILOSOPHY COURSES

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

105. The Holocaust. Staff

An interdisciplinary examination of the antecedents, realities, and implications of the Nazi attempt to exterminate the Jews. Also listed as Religious Studies 146. Offered every third year.

119. Philosophical Roots of European Fascism. Moss

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. Offered every year.

140. Bias and Objectivity in the News Media. Figdor

This course in applied epistemology will examine the issues of truth and opinion in U.S. and foreign-based print, visual, audio and electronic news media. Our

approach will be from the point of view of the news producer, whose professional role involves obtaining truth via expert and non-expert testimony and transmitting truth reliably to news consumers. Readings will be drawn from classical and contemporary sources (including Plato, Mill, Hume and Nietzsche), and will be supplemented by case studies. Offered occasionally.

152. Theories of the Good Life. S. Smith

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. Offered every year.

155. Bioethics. Staff

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. Offered every other year.

165. Global Justice, World Poverty, and Human Rights. Rajcz

This course introduces students to the subject of global justice by (i) familiarizing them with the major theories of domestic justice, (ii) exploring the ways in which political theorists have extended these theories to the global arena, and then (iii) challenging the students to re-think and make consistent their own opinions on such matters as global justice, world poverty, and human rights. Specific topics may include: global democracy, world governance, business and globalization, the distribution of wealth, the conduct of war, and terrorism. Offered every other year.

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

A study of philosophical and theological answers to questions about death and the meaning of life. Also listed as Religious Studies 144. Offered every other year.

ADVANCED PHILOSOPHY COURSES

(designed for philosophy majors)

131. Hegel and Marx. Kucheman

A study of the thought of Karl Marx in relation to the philosophy of G.W.F. Hegel. Offered every year.

132. Philosophy of Cognitive Science. Figdor

Cognitive science is the study of cognition (and specific cognitive capacities, such as reasoning, perception, and language) by researchers in psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, computer science and philosophy. This course introduces the main issues involving the field's unifying concept: information processing. What does it mean to say the mind is a computer? What other models of information

processing are there? How well do these models explain cognitive phenomena? Offered occasionally

134. Philosophy of Law. Hurley

Participants in this course will first examine prominent theories of law, including positivism and recent variations upon natural law and legal realist approaches. We then proceed to the study of alternative approaches to statutory (including constitutional) interpretation, theories of tort law, and theories of punishment. Offered every other year.

137. Skepticism. Staff

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? Offered every third year.

139. Language and Reality. Kind

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. Offered every other year.

145. Fundamentals of Logic. Kind

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. Offered every spring semester.

158. Ethical Theory. Rajczi, Hurley

This course will address the question "What makes an action moral or immoral?" In the process of answering it, students will be introduced to the techniques that philosophers use to resolve ethical problems and to some of the greatest works of ethical philosophy in the Western canon, including works by Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Jeremy Bentham, and John Stuart Mill. Prerequisite: one previous course in philosophy. Offered every third year.

180. Metaphysics. Staff

An introduction to the basic questions regarding existence: What is there? What is it like? Topics include the nature of the self and the mind, the existence of God, particulars and universals, necessity and possibility, the nature of truth and the possibility of free will. Prerequisite: at least one previous course on philosophy or permission of the instructor. Offered every other year.

182. Aesthetics. Rajczi

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. Offered every third year.

183. Aesthetics of Literature. Rajczi

The principal question of the course is: what, if anything, makes one work of literature superior to another? Readings are varied, and may include classic and modern philosophical work on aesthetics, the reflections of authors on how best to write, and specific works of fiction. Offered every other year.

198. Senior Seminar in Philosophy. Staff

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. Offered every year.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

199. Independent Study in Philosophy. Staff

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. Offered every semester.