

PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the philosophy program is to introduce students to a broad range of philosophical topics and issues. The methods of careful reasoning, philosophical analysis and constructive dialogue are applied to questions that concern all who seek to understand themselves, the reality of the world, the meaning and purpose of life and the way to make wise and moral choices. The subject is taught primarily as a contribution to students' overall liberal arts education. Transfer-level curriculum is emphasized, as are interdisciplinary studies with other subject areas, particularly in the natural and social sciences.

Students who take philosophy courses in the program can expect to become better thinkers, more effective learners, more capable employees, wiser consumers and better citizens.

For more information, contact:

Chris Horrock, Lead Faculty, chorrock@vcccd.edu
(805) 986-5800, ext. 1906

Career Opportunities

Attorney	Business Executive
Teacher/College Instructor	Philosopher/Author
Human Resource Development	
Human Services/Probation Officer	
Human Services/Social Welfare	
Non-Profit Organization Management	
Public Service/Political Leadership	

Faculty

Full-Time	Part-Time
Carolyn Dorrance	Matthew Franko
Christopher Horrock	Lee French
	Russell Sanders
	James Tepfer
	Douglas Thiel

◆ Philosophy

Associate in Arts Degree

Required Courses:		Units
PHIL R101	Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHIL R107	Logic	3
		6
Required Additional Courses:		Units
Complete a minimum of 12 units from the following:		
ANTH R111	Magic, Witchcraft & Religion: Anthropology of Belief	3
ECON R101	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
PHIL R100	Critical Thinking	3
PHIL R102	Introduction to Ethics	3
PHIL R103	Survey of World Religions: East	3
PHIL R104	Survey of World Religions: West	3
PHIL R105	History of Western Philosophy I: Ancient and Medieval	3
PHIL R106	History of Western Philosophy II: Modern and Contemporary	3
PHIL R108	World Mythology	3
PHIL R109	Modern Religious Movements in America	3
PHIL R110	Philosophy of Religion	3
PHIL R111	Thinking Critically and Analytic Writing	3
PHIL R112	Symbolic Logic	3
PHIL/SOC R114	Social Philosophy	3
POLS R100	Introduction to Politics	3
		12

Total Required Units 18

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Philosophy program students will be able to:

- Ability to formulate some of the core questions of philosophy and understand various philosophical responses to them in their historical context.
- Ability to analyze and evaluate philosophical claims, arguments, and theories using rigorous philosophical methods (such as logical analysis and the identification of fallacies).
- Students will embody the qualities of an open-minded but critical thinker in the examination or formation of their philosophy.
- Ability to compare, contrast, analyze, and evaluate the views of the most influential Western philosophers and philosophical movements from a particular historical period—as found in primary or secondary sources—using rigorous philosophical methods.
- At the end of the program, the student is able to construct a novel, interesting, and logically correct argument that avoids fallacies. The student is also able to represent the logical structure of the argument (in standard logical form), as well as express and defend the argument as a short essay.

Philosophy Courses

PHIL R100—Critical Thinking 3 units

3 hours lecture weekly

This course is an introduction to critical thinking skills. The course will examine deductive and inductive reasoning techniques applied in arguments, natural and social science, social and cultural issues and everyday situations. Critical thinking skills to be developed include: identifying and evaluating arguments, recognizing informal fallacies, constructing effective arguments and assessing topics from multiple argumentative points of view. (Course credit is not available for students who have already taken PHIL R111). Formerly PHIL R121. (2).

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R101—Introduction to Philosophy 3 units

3 hours lecture weekly

This course is an introduction to the basic issues, questions, problems and methods in philosophy. Topics explored include: logic, reasoning, knowledge, truth, mind, self, identity, values, ethics, meaning, existence, reality, God, religion, politics and governance. An effort is made to relate philosophical issues to the experiences and concerns of undergraduate college students. This course concerns first- and second-year college students. (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R102—Introduction to Ethics 3 units

3 hours lecture weekly

This course provides an introduction to ethical theory. Topics include: key ethical terminology, relativism, egoism, utilitarianism, duty theory, virtue ethics, feminist theory, religion and values. In addition, specific contemporary moral issues will be explored such as abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, discrimination, environmental ethics, war and terrorism. Students will be encouraged to develop a better understanding of themselves as well as to develop a tolerance for differences in societies and culture. (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R103—Survey of World Religions: East 3 units

3 hours lecture weekly

This course explores the origins, core concepts and philosophical development of the major religions of Asia. The religions studied include Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto and Zen. Discussion of contemporary applications of the metaphysical, ethical and social ideas found in eastern religions is encouraged. Field trips may be required. (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R104—Survey of World Religions: West **3 units**
3 hours lecture weekly

This course explores the origins, core concepts and philosophical development of the major religions of the Near East, Europe and North America. The religions studied include Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Baha'i and post Colombian Native American religions. Discussion of contemporary applications of the metaphysical, ethical and social ideas found in western religions is encouraged. Field trips may be required. (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R105—History of Western Philosophy I: Ancient and Medieval **3 units**

3 hours lecture weekly

This historical introduction to philosophy traces the development of Western philosophy from early Greece through the Middle Ages. Ideas which influenced the Roman Empire and helped shape the rise and development of Christianity and Medieval Europe are emphasized. (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R106—History of Western Philosophy II: Modern and Contemporary **3 units**

3 hours lecture weekly

This study in the principal philosophical developments since the renaissance emphasizes the relation of philosophy to the growth of science as well as social and cultural changes in the modern period. Topics include: renaissance humanism, the rise of modern science, continental rationalism, British empiricism, the Enlightenment, German romanticism and idealism, Marxism, existentialism, positivism, American pragmatism, and analytic philosophy. (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R107—Introduction to Logic **3 units**
3 hours lecture weekly

This course studies the elements, principles and methods of formal deductive reasoning. Topics include: basic analysis of arguments, traditional categorical logic, modern propositional logic, the sentential calculus, natural deduction, quantification theory, formal and informal fallacies. (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R108—World Mythology **3 units**
3 hours lecture weekly

This course explores myth (traditional stories) as a vital part of human experience: individual and collective, past and present. Myths and legends from a wide range of cultures (including Native American, African, Asian, Middle Eastern and European) are examined in terms of their appearance in folklore, ritual, religion, literature and the arts. Mythic thematic content, beliefs and values are studied both individually as well as comparatively. (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R109—Modern Religious Movements in America **3 units**

3 hours lecture weekly

This course surveys the development, doctrines and practices of religious movements arising in the United States since 1840. The intellectual impact of new scholarship in the social sciences upon orthodox beliefs is discussed along with the response of Fundamentalism. Asian and indigenous sources of religious pluralism are studied including the philosophical perspectives of spiritualism, Zen and Tibetan Buddhism, Vedanta, Transcendental Meditation, Wiccan religious practice, Evangelical and Four Square Gospel, Black Muslims, revivals of Native American religions, Naturopathic Medicine, Krishna Consciousness, Jews for Jesus, Charismatic Catholicism, Liberation Theology and Islamic Movements in America. Religious responses to war and social injustice are analyzed. Field trips may be required. (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R110—Philosophy of Religion **3 units**
3 hours lecture weekly

This course provides an introduction to the fundamental concepts of religion, and a critical exploration of reasons for and against widely held religious doctrines. Topics include: the attributes of God, arguments for and against God's existence, religious experience, mysticism and miracles, divine perfection and the problem of evil, the possibility of life after death, the contrast between faith and reason, and religious pluralism. Field trips may be required. (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R111—Thinking Critically and Analytic Writing **3 units**

Prerequisites: ENGL R101.

3 hours lecture weekly

This course is an introduction to critical thinking skills with an emphasis on logical analysis through writing. The course will examine deductive and inductive reasoning techniques applied in arguments, natural and social science, social and cultural issues and everyday situations. Critical thinking skills to be developed include: identifying and evaluating arguments, recognizing informal fallacies, constructing effective arguments and assessing topics from multiple argumentative points of view. A total of 6,000 to 8,000 words will be required during the semester in a variety of written assignments. (Course credit is not available for students who have already taken PHIL R100.) (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R112—Symbolic Logic and Set Theory **3 units**
3 hours lecture weekly

Introduction to symbolic logic and set theory; includes investigation of truth and validity, formal proof and symbolizing relations, truth sets, truth tables and Boolean algebra, and a description of axiomatic systems. (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R114—Social Philosophy **3 units**
3 hours lecture weekly

Social philosophy studies man in society from the standpoint of metaphysical and ethical principles and presuppositions of human nature. Course highlights major historical and contemporary perspectives in the history of philosophy and takes one prominent social philosopher for detailed study. Questions concerning legal and social relationships, purpose in social order, and ethical values in human institutions explored. (Same as SOC R114) (2)

Transfer credit: UC, CSU

PHIL R189—Topics in Philosophy **½-3 units**
Lecture hours as required by unit formula

Topics in selected areas of philosophy to meet specific needs of community or college as required or requested by persons whose needs are not met by regular course offerings. (2)

Transfer credit: CSU

PHIL R199—Directed Studies in Philosophy **1-3 units**
Lecture and/or lab hours as required by unit formula

Designed for students interested in furthering their knowledge of philosophy on an independent study basis; assignments will include library research, written work, and discussion with instructor. Course may be taken two times. (2)

Transfer credit: CSU