Philosophy
Cosumnes River College

Philosophy is the logical examination of the fundamental issues people have pondered for over 2500 years. What is reality and what is beauty? What is knowledge and truth? What is good and just? Does human existence have meaning and does God exist? Philosophy courses are directed toward understanding these questions in their historical and cultural contexts and applying insights to contemporary life. Rigorous philosophical study will improve one's critical thinking skills.

DEAN  LaTonya Williams (/about-us/contact-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/latonya-williams)


(916) 691-7359
WilliaL3@crc.losrios.edu (mailto:WilliaL3@crc.losrios.edu)

Philosophy (PHIL)

PHIL 300 Introduction to Philosophy

| Units: | 3 |
| Hours: | 54 hours LEC |
| Prerequisite: | None. |
| Transferable: | CSU; UC |
| General Education: | AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area A3; CSU Area C2; IGETC Area 3B |
| C-ID: | C-ID PHIL 100 |
| Catalog Date: | January 1, 2020 |

In this course, students will apply the critical thinking techniques of analysis, evaluation, and synthesis to areas of philosophical inquiry including meta-philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of religion, history of philosophy, and existentialism. Students will practice distinguishing fact from opinion, employing inductive and deductive reasoning, identifying logical errors and fallacies, and developing oral and written arguments to support their own philosophical perspectives or challenge the perspectives of others. The quality and quantity of the course's required writing will reflect the standards of a second semester composition course.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- SLO #1: identify important questions and conceptions within a range of traditional subfields of Philosophy (Epistemology, Metaphysics, Logic, Ethics, and Aesthetics), distinguish from among divergent interpretations those that are better supported and those that are less well supported, construct well supported interpretations of diverse viewpoints and reason well about written and oral discourse.
PHIL 304 Introduction to Asian Philosophy

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify important questions and conceptions within a range of traditional subfields of Philosophy (Epistemology, Metaphysics, Logic, Ethics, and Aesthetics) as they are addressed within a range of classical Asian philosophical traditions (Hindu, Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist), distinguish from among divergent interpretations those that are better supported and those that are less well supported, construct well supported interpretations of diverse viewpoints and reason well about written and oral discourse (SLO1, PSLO1).

- Evaluate information concerning central issues within a range of traditional sub-fields of Philosophy as they are addressed within a range of classical Asian philosophical traditions for quality, validity and bias to determine if it is objective and reliable.

- Evaluate the relationship of language to logic and analyze, criticize and rationally justify points of view concerning central issues within a range of traditional sub-fields of Philosophy as they are addressed within a range of classical Asian philosophical traditions.

- Reason inductively and deductively, reach conclusions concerning central issues within a range of traditional sub-fields of Philosophy as they are addressed within a range of classical Asian philosophical traditions based on sound or cogent inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief.
Distinguish fact from non-factual judgment, belief from knowledge and fallacious reasoning from correct (invalid or weak) reasoning in respect to central issues within a range of traditional sub-fields of Philosophy as they are addressed within a range of classical Asian philosophical traditions.

Distinguish between philosophy and religion, philosophical views and religious views.

Demonstrate the ability to engage in ethical reasoning necessary to exercise responsibility as an ethical individual, professional, local, and global citizen (SLO2, PSLO3).

Apply ethical reasoning skills to ethical issues addressed within a range of classical Asian philosophical traditions and work toward a personal resolution of ethical issues.

Express an appreciation of ethical principles addressed within a range of classical Asian philosophical traditions as applied to personal and civic choices.

Realize and apply the responsibility to use knowledge wisely.

PHIL 310 Introduction to Ethics

| Units:          | 3        |
| Hours:          | 54 hours LEC |
| Prerequisite:   | None.         |
| Transferable:   | CSU; UC     |
| General Education: | AA/AS Area I; CSU Area C2; IGETC Area 3B |
| C-ID:           | C-ID PHIL 120 |
| Catalog Date:   | January 1, 2020 |

The application of theories developed by traditional and contemporary moral philosophy to the ethical problems, dilemmas, and issues of today.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- SLO #1: identify important questions and conceptions within Ethics, distinguish from among divergent interpretations those that are better supported and those that are less well supported, construct well supported interpretations of diverse viewpoints and reason well about written and oral discourse.

- Objective 1a: evaluate information concerning central issues within Ethics for quality, validity and bias to determine if it is objective and reliable.

- Objective 1b: evaluate the relationship of language to logic and analyze, criticize and rationally justify points of view concerning ethical issues.

- SLO #2: reason inductively and deductively concerning ethical issues, reach conclusions about ethical issues based on sound or cogent inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge of belief.

- Objective 2a: distinguish fact from non-factual judgment concerning ethical issues, belief from knowledge and fallacious reasoning from correct (invalid or weak) reasoning concerning ethical issues.
Objective 2b: apply ethical reasoning skills to ethical issues and work toward a personal resolution of ethical issues.

SLO #3 (PSLO #3): demonstrate the ability to engage unethical reasoning necessary to exercise responsibility as an ethical individual, professional, local, and global citizen.

Objective 3a: show an appreciation of ethical principles as applied to personal and civic choices.

PHIL 315 Contemporary Moral Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units:</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours:</td>
<td>54 hours LEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite:</td>
<td>None.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory:</td>
<td>Eligibility for ENGWR 300.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferable:</td>
<td>CSU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalog Date:</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This course investigates some of the moral issues our society presently faces. These issues may include abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering, individual liberty and the collective good, sexuality/gender and society, war and terrorism, capital punishment, hunger/poverty and moral obligation, discrimination, and affirmative action.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- SLO #1: Critically evaluate views concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- SLO #2: Compare and contrast differing theories concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- SLO #3: Analyze and evaluate arguments from primary sources concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- Assess presuppositions underlying various views concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.
- SLO #4: Formulate reasons to justify one’s beliefs concerning abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or other topics addressed in the course.

PHIL 320 Logic and Critical Reasoning
An introduction to basic principles and frameworks of logic and critical thinking appropriately used in argument analysis: deduction, induction, fallacy recognition. Emphasis on developing analytical skills and applying principles of good reasoning to the arguments encountered in life. Argument topics from academic fields and textbooks, the electronic and print media, advertisements, politics and ethics may be considered. The quality and quantity of the course's required writing will reflect the standards of a second semester composition course.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify important questions and conceptions, distinguish from among divergent interpretations those that are better supported and those that are less well supported; construct well supported interpretations of diverse viewpoints; and reason well about written and oral discourse (SLO1, PSLO2).
- evaluate information concerning central issues for quality, validity and bias to determine if it is objective and reliable.
- evaluate the relationship of language to logic and analyze, criticize and rationally justify points of view.
- reason inductively and deductively, reach conclusions based on sound or cogent inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief.
- distinguish fact from non-factual judgment, belief from knowledge and fallacious reasoning from correct (invalid or weak) reasoning.
- access, synthesize and evaluate information using a variety of sources (SLO2, PSLO2).
- utilize technological resources in order to explore and express information.
- determine the extent of information needed, evaluate the information and its sources critically, and ethically and legally apply gathered information to personal and community issues.
- demonstrate the ability to engage in ethical reasoning necessary to exercise responsibility as an ethical individual, professional, local, and global citizen (SLO3, PSLO3).
- apply ethical reasoning skills to ethical issues and work toward a personal resolution of ethical issues.
- express an appreciation of ethical principles as applied to personal and civic choices.
- realize and apply the responsibility to use knowledge wisely.
This course introduces sentential and predicate logic by introducing logical symbolism, truth tables, methods of formal analysis and methods of formal proof including natural deduction. It is recommended for students in the sciences, computer programming, mathematics, linguistics, law, and philosophy.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- distinguish an argument from a description, explanation, or report.
- distinguish deductive from inductive arguments.
- recognize the logical form of an argument or argument type.
- symbolize arguments in the languages of propositional and predicate logic.
- evaluate the validity of arguments using truth tables.
- evaluate the consistency and equivalence of sets of sentences using truth tables.
- evaluate the validity of arguments using natural deduction.
- comprehend the distinction between semantic and syntactical methods of argument evaluation.

PHIL 330 History of Classical Philosophy

This course is a survey of the origin and development of Western Philosophy from the period of the ancient Greeks and Romans, and continuing through the Middle Ages. This course is especially recommended for all philosophy, history and humanities majors.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
SLO #1: identify important questions and conceptions within the history of classical (or ancient) philosophy, distinguish from among divergent interpretations those that are better supported and those that are less well supported, construct well supported interpretations of diverse viewpoints and reason well about written and oral discourse.

Objective 1a: evaluate information concerning central issues within the history of classical philosophy for quality, validity and bias to determine if it is objective and reliable.

Objective 1b: evaluate the relationship of language to logic and analyze, criticize and rationally justify points of view concerning central issues within the history of classical philosophy.

SLO #2: reason inductively and deductively, reach conclusions concerning central issues within the history of classical philosophy based on sound or cogent inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief.

Objective 2a: distinguish fact from non-factual judgment, belief from knowledge and fallacious reasoning (invalid or weak) from correct reasoning in respect to central issues within the history of classical philosophy.

PHIL 331 History of Modern Philosophy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units:</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours:</td>
<td>54 hours LEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite:</td>
<td>None.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferable:</td>
<td>CSU; UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education:</td>
<td>AA/AS Area I; CSU Area C2; IGETC Area 3B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalog Date:</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This course is a survey of the development of Western Philosophy from the period of the Renaissance through the period of modern Europe and America. This course is especially recommended for all Philosophy, History and Humanities majors.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- develop critical thinking, writing and reading skills.
- understand the philosophical content and methods of modern philosophy.
- know the philosophical and historical foundations necessary for upper–division study in Philosophy, History and Humanities.

PHIL 338 Contemporary Philosophy
A comprehensive study of the basic ideas of pragmatists, twentieth century metaphysicians, philosophy of language, and existentialists. Special attention will be given to relevance of their ideas to modern life.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- **SLO #1**: identify important questions and conceptions within contemporary philosophy, distinguish from among divergent interpretations those that are better supported and those that are less well supported, construct well supported interpretations of diverse viewpoints and reason well about written and oral discourse.

- **Objective 1a**: evaluate information concerning central issues within contemporary philosophy for quality, validity and bias to determine if it is objective and reliable.

- **Objective 1b**: evaluate the relationship of language to logic and analyze, criticize and rationally justify points of view concerning central issues within contemporary philosophy.

- **SLO #2**: reason inductively and deductively, reach conclusions concerning central issues within contemporary philosophy based on sound or cogent inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief.

- **Objective 2a**: distinguish fact from non-factual judgment, belief from knowledge and fallacious reasoning (invalid or weak) from correct reasoning in respect to central issues within contemporary.

**PHIL 350 Philosophy of Religion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units:</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours:</td>
<td>54 hours LEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferable:</td>
<td>CSU; UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education:</td>
<td>AA/AS Area I; CSU Area C2; IGETC Area 3B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalog Date:</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This course is a historical and topical survey of the questions, problems, and theories philosophers have developed in attempts to understand religion as a fundamental impulse within human experience and as a major cultural force. Rather than survey the different religions, this course considers the basic philosophical beliefs and concepts that seem auxiliary to religion. Topics include the possibility of religious knowledge, faith versus reason, theistic arguments, conceptions of God, religious language, atheism, agnosticism, mysticism, the problem of evil, immortality, the challenge of science, and religion's influence on ethics and politics.
Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- SLO #1: identify important questions and conceptions within Philosophy of Religion, distinguish from among divergent interpretations those that are better supported and those that are less well supported, construct well supported interpretations of diverse viewpoints and reason well about written and oral discourse.

- Objective 1a: evaluate information concerning central issues within Philosophy of Religion for quality and bias to determine if it is objective and reliable.

- Objective 1b: evaluate the relationship of language to logic and analyze, criticize and rationally justify points of view concerning central issues within Philosophy of Religion.

- SLO #2: reason inductively and deductively, reach conclusions concerning central issues within Philosophy of Religion based on sound or cogent inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief.

- Objective 2a: distinguish fact from non-factual judgment, belief from knowledge and fallacious reasoning (invalid or weak) from correct reasoning in respect to central issues within Philosophy of Religion.

- Objective 2b: distinguish between philosophy and religion, philosophical views and religious views.

PHIL 352 Introduction to World Religions

| Units: | 3 |
| Hours: | 54 hours LEC |
| Prerequisite: | None. |
| Transferable: | CSU; UC |
| General Education: | AA/AS Area I; AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area C2; IGETC Area 3B |
| Catalog Date: | January 1, 2020 |

This course will introduce students to the major world religious traditions, including indigenous sacred ways, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will study the practices and beliefs of each tradition and will read selected material from the sacred writings of each tradition. Also, the influence of these religions on contemporary issues in the United States including ethnicity, ethnocentrism, racism, ageism, class differences, and sexual orientation is considered. This course fulfills Cosumnes River College's Ethnic/Multicultural requirement for the Associates Degree.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- SLO #1: identify important questions and conceptions concerning world religions, distinguish from among divergent interpretations those that are better supported and those that are less well supported, construct well supported interpretations of diverse viewpoints and reason well about written and oral discourse.
PHIL 356 Introduction to the Bible

In this course, students survey the literary, historical, ethical, theological and philosophical themes of the Bible. Students will read extensive passages from the Hebrew and Christian scriptures with special focus on textual exegesis and analysis. Topics from the Hebrew scriptures include the Law, the development of monotheism, the social justice tradition of the Prophets, and the Writings. Topics from the New Testament scriptures include the investigation of the Gospels and the "Jesus Problem" and the examination of the early development of the Christian Church.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- **SLO #1**: identify important questions and conceptions concerning Biblical Studies, distinguish from among divergent interpretations those that are better supported and those that are less well supported, construct well supported interpretations and reason well about written and oral discourse.
- **Objective 1a**: demonstrate skills in text criticism, exegesis, and hermeneutics.
- **Objective 1b**: evaluate interpretations within Biblical Studies for quality and bias to determine if it is objective as opposed to faith-based.
- **Objective 1c**: criticize and rationally justify interpretations within Biblical Studies.
- **SLO #2**: reach conclusions concerning interpretations within Biblical Studies based on accurate methods of text criticism, exegesis, and hermeneutics.
Objective 2a: distinguish amongst philosophy, biblical studies, and religion.

SLO #3 (PSLO #3): demonstrate the ability to engage in ethical reasoning necessary to exercise responsibility as an ethical individual, professional, local, and global citizen.

Objective 3a: demonstrate the ability to engage in rational discourse regarding Biblical Studies in an ethically responsible manner.

Objective 3b: demonstrate appreciation of the influence of the bible on humanity's literary, moral, and philosophical traditions.

---

**PHIL 360 Social/Political Philosophy**

**Units:** 3

**Hours:** 54 hours LEC

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Transferable:** CSU; UC

**General Education:** AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D7; IGETC Area 3B

**Catalog Date:** January 1, 2020

A historical, methodological, and topical survey of significant themes of social and political philosophy from Plato to our present times: authority, freedom, government, justice, law, rights, society and the state.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- understand and appreciate the nature and methods of social science.
- grasp certain important content of the history and topical areas of social and political philosophy.
- develop general and transferable critical thinking abilities that accompany rigorous study of philosophy.
- analyze methodologically the presuppositions and criteria used in solutions.
- cultivate a critical habit of mind enabling one to recognize, reflect, analyze, and then appropriately accept or reject one's institutional systems and alternatives.

---

**PHIL 485 Honors Seminar: Philosophy of the Martial Arts**
This course provides an introduction to the philosophical views that have traditionally been associated with the practice of martial arts and explores the interplay between those views and that practice. It also provides an introduction to those contemporary philosophical issues that arise in the context of present day analytic philosophical reflection on the nature and practice of martial arts. The course thus provides both the opportunity to appreciate the eastern philosophical underpinnings of an activity that has become part of mainstream American Culture and the opportunity to experience the rigorous application of contemporary analytic academic philosophical methodology. Details about the Honors Program can be found in the front of the Catalog and on the CRC website. Enrollment is limited to Honors Program students. This course is the same as HONOR 364 and only one may be taken for credit.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Employ the general and transferable critical thinking and communication abilities developed by the rigorous study of academic philosophy (SLO 1).
- Demonstrate the ability to engage in upper-division work in the discipline of Philosophy.
- Apply the basic methodology of contemporary analytic philosophy (e.g. assess, critique, deduce, evaluate, research, support, justify, analyze, debate, defend, detect, distinguish, examine, etc.) to understand traditional Asian, as well as contemporary American, martial arts.
- Recognize and explain the fundamental ethical, metaphysical, and epistemological tenets of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism (SLO 2).
- Describe and explain the influence of the fundamental ethical, metaphysical, and epistemological tenets of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism on the traditional study of (Asian) martial arts.
- Demonstrate the ability to navigate a seminar environment (SLO 3).

**PHIL 495 Independent Studies in Philosophy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units:</th>
<th>1 - 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours:</td>
<td>54 - 162 hours LAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite:</td>
<td>None.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferable:</td>
<td>CSU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalog Date:</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An independent studies project involves an individual student or small group of students in study, research, or activities beyond the scope of regularly offered courses. See the current catalog section of "Special Studies" for full details of Independent Studies.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- **SLO #1**: Actively engage in intellectual inquiry beyond that required in order to pass a course of study (College Wide Learning Outcome – Area 4).
- Discuss and outline a proposal of study (that can be accomplished within one semester term) with a supervising instructor qualified within the discipline.
- Design an independent study (to be completed individually or by collaboration of a small group) to foster special knowledge, skills, and experience that are not available in any one regularly scheduled course.
- Use information resources to gather discipline-specific information.
- **SLO #2**: Utilize modes of analysis and critical thinking to apply theoretical perspectives and/or concepts in the major discipline of study to significant problems and/or educational activities (College Wide Learning Outcome – Area 3).
  - Analyze and apply the knowledge, skills and experience that are involved in the independent study to theoretical perspectives and/or concepts in the major discipline of study.
  - Explain the importance of the major discipline of study in the broader picture of society.
- **SLO #3**: Communicate a complex understanding of content matter of the major discipline of study (College Wide Outcome – Area 3).
  - Demonstrate competence in the skills essential to mastery of the major discipline of study that are necessary to accomplish the independent study.
- **SLO #4**: Identify personal goals and pursue these goals effectively (College Wide Outcome – Area 4).
  - Utilize skills from the “academic tool kit” including time management, study skills, etc., to accomplish the independent study within one semester term.

Albert Cinelli
Adjunct Philosophy Professor

Marnie Binder
Adjunct
Humanities/Philosophy Professor
Jeff Dale
Adjunct Philosophy Professor

Office: CRC Main, BS, 143
dalej@crc.losrios.edu
(916) 691-7142

Web: Jeff Dale's Profile Page
(/about-us/contact-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/jeff-dale)

Richard Schubert
Philosophy Professor

Office: CRC Main, SOC, 116
schuber@crc.losrios.edu
(916) 691-7494

Web: Richard Schubert's Profile Page
(/about-us/contact-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/richard-schubert)

Jacob Velasquez
Philosophy Professor

Office: CRC Main, SOC, 114
velasqj@crc.losrios.edu
(916) 691-7023

Web: Jacob Velasquez's Profile Page
(/about-us/contact-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/jacob-velasquez)

Cookies Disclaimer

The Cosumnes River College website uses cookies to enhance user experience and analyze site usage. By continuing to use this site, you are giving us consent to do this. Review our Privacy Policy (/about-us/our-values/website-privacy-policy) to learn more.