


PHILOSOPHY

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Purpose and Focus

Most disciplines have their origins in philosophy, and philosophy still underlies them all. Nevertheless, certain questions are enduringly philosophical — peculiarly fundamental questions concerning the ultimate nature of values, knowledge, and reality. Philosophy thus investigates general topics of human interest: morality and the good life, law and the political life, God and the sacred, good and bad reasoning, evidence and discovery, art and the beautiful. Studying philosophy requires learning how to listen and how to discuss; it involves sifting through ideas and articulating thoughts in ways that others can follow. It is little wonder, therefore, that not only is a degree in philosophy valuable in itself, but it is also widely recognized as an excellent preparation for careers in academics, law, medicine, and even business.

Degree Objectives

One primary objective of a philosophical education is to instill an appreciation for Socrates' adage, "The unexamined life is not worth living for a human being." Other objectives of our particular program are:

1. To acquire facility in the theory and practice of argumentation, reasoning, and critical thinking;
2. To enhance abilities to speak and write;
3. To be able to appreciate, interpret, and evaluate the classics of Western philosophy from antiquity to the present;
4. To be knowledgeable about the central problems in the main branches of philosophical theory, such as metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and the philosophy of science;
5. To be prepared for graduate study in philosophy or another academic field;
6. To have a basis for going to law school, medical school, divinity school, or another professional school.

Accreditation

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

Undergraduate Major

Philosophy

Admission to the Major

Minimum GPA: 2.30

Department Policies


Academic Policies

All philosophy majors must achieve a 2.70 GPA in philosophy courses. All philosophy minors must achieve a 2.50 GPA in philosophy courses.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

2008-2010 Undergraduate Catalog

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

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Degree Requirements

English Composition - Total Credits: 6

ENG 101 - Composition I
ENG 102 - Composition II

English Literature - Total Credits: 3

ENG 231 - World Literature I
or
ENG 232 - World Literature II

Constitutions - Total Credits: 4

Mathematics - Total Credits: 3

Distribution Requirement Humanities and Fine Arts

Life and Physical Sciences and Analytical Thinking - Total Credits: 9-10

PHIL 102 - Critical Thinking and Reasoning

and two courses from life and physical sciences category; at least one must be a lab.

Social Science - Total Credits: 9

Multicultural and International

(see notes below)

Additional Degree Requirements

Foreign Language/Foreign Culture - Total Credits: 6

Humanities - Total Credits: 6

Fine Arts - Total Credits: 6

Philosophy Major Requirements - Total Credits: 42

PHIL 101 - Introduction to Philosophy

Three of the following courses in the history of philosophy:

PHIL 401 - Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 402 - Medieval Philosophy

PHIL 403 - Early Modern Philosophy
PHIL 404 - Nineteenth-Century Philosophy
PHIL 405 - Contemporary Philosophy
PHIL 406 - American Philosophy

Three of the following courses in philosophical theory:

PHIL 425 - Philosophy of Language
PHIL 430 - Philosophy of Science
PHIL 440 - Theory of Knowledge
PHIL 441 - Metaphysics
PHIL 450 - Ethical Theory

One of the following courses in logic:

PHIL 302 - Intermediate Critical Thinking and Reasoning
PHIL 322 - Inductive Logic and Probability
PHIL 420 - Logical Theory
PHIL 422 - Advanced Logic

Six electives within philosophy, four of which must be at the 300-400 level.

Electives - Total Credits: 24-31

Total Credits: 124

Notes

1. Every student must complete a three-credit multicultural course and a three-credit international course. Courses satisfying other requirements may simultaneously satisfy the multicultural and international requirements except one course cannot satisfy both the multicultural and the international requirements.
2. Every student must complete a three-credit course in computer science.

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