Philosophy - Prelaw Option, B.A.

DEPARTMENT

Department of Philosophy
Sergio La Porta, Chair
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www.fresnostate.edu/artshum/philosophy

BA in Philosophy, B.A.
MN in Philosophy, Minor
BA in Philosophy - Religious Studies Option, B.A.
BA in Philosophy - Prelaw Option, B.A.
MN in Peace & Conflict Studies, Minor
MN in Middle East Studies, Minor

The Department

Philosophy is one of the fundamental domains of human thought. It grows out of basic life questions, including questions of ethics, religion, politics, and science. The study of philosophy has had an historic role in the core of sound education, because it helps sharpen skills of careful, independent thinking and aids people of all ages in defining their most important values and beliefs. The examination of great philosophical ideas, and the emphasis on clear reasoning and personal development that are involved in philosophy serve as a strong foundation for life, regardless of one's career objectives.

The Department of Philosophy offers students the following opportunities for a rich and rewarding undergraduate experience: the traditional B.A. philosophy major, the prelaw option, the religious studies option, and the philosophy minor. The department provides ample opportunity for individual attention and student participation in its activities, e.g., student Philosophy Club, symposia, colloquia, etc.

The Prelaw Option emphasizes analytical skills, ethics, and values courses. Law schools seek a broad general education background and do not recommend any specific major. Students who enjoy philosophy and are interested in law should find this option an excellent way to combine their interests.

The Religious Studies Option offers objective methods for exploring the vast and complex human experience known as religion. This study is done with an appreciation for the variety and diversity of religious beliefs and expressions. This option provides students with an academic approach to religion in personal, social, historical, and global contexts.

REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements
Students must select from the Philosophy Major, the Prelaw Option, or the Religious Studies Option.

Prelaw Option requirements (33 units)
The Prelaw Option emphasizes critical thinking and analytical skills, as well as ethics and issues related to law. It also includes a law-related intern experience. Law schools do not prefer any specific major, but emphasize critical thinking and general education. (See Preprofessional Preparation). Students with a strong interest in philosophy as well as law may find this option valuable. Depending upon the interests of the student, courses or minors in political science, business, criminology, and a variety of social sciences would be useful electives for the Prelaw Option.

PHIL 25 or 45 (3 units)
PHIL 101 or 103 (3 units)
PHIL 115 or 118 (3 units)
PHIL 120 or 122 (3 units)
PHIL 121 or 127 (3 units)
Select two: PHIL 140, 146, 150, 151, 156 or 157 (6 units)
PHIL 170T (3 units)
PHIL 199 (3 units)
Approved outside electives: ANTH 119; CRIM 20; AFRS 146; BA 18; PLSI 110, 111, 170, 171; COMM 105, 149, 163, or other approved courses (6 units)
General Education requirements (51 units)

Upper-division writing skills requirement (0 units)
Upper-Division Writing Exam (see Advising Note 6.)

Electives and remaining degree requirements 36-39*
(See Degree Requirements); may be used toward a double major or minor

Total (120 units)

* This total indicates that PHIL 25 or 45 (3 units) in G.E. Foundation A3 also may be applied to the philosophy major.

Advising Notes
1. CR/NC grading is not permitted in courses used to fulfill the philosophy major requirements.
2. General Education and elective units may be used toward a double major or minor (see double major or departmental minor). Consult the appropriate department chair, program coordinator, or faculty adviser for further information.
3. Students intending to pursue graduate study in philosophy, law, or religious studies should seek a faculty adviser's help in planning adequate preparation.
4. Visit the Philosophy Department office or your faculty adviser for the list of approved T classes for the major.
5. No General Education Integration or Multicultural/International course offered by the Philosophy Department may be used to satisfy the General Education requirements for majors in the department.
6. If the upper-division writing skills requirement is not met by passing the university Upper-Division Writing Examination (0 units), then a 3- to 4-unit W course must be passed with a grade of C or higher.

FACULTY

The department has a diverse and well-trained faculty with special interests ranging from logic and scientific method to existentialism and philosophy of religion. All members of the department share the conviction that the best way to teach philosophy is through an intense but sympathetic interchange between the teacher and the student.

For faculty phone numbers and e-mail, see the campus directory.

For more on the faculty, see the faculty pages.
The faculty pages are updated by the department or program.

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<tr>
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