

## ***What is in this Philosophy Department packet?***

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8. Copies of programs for all major and minor options are attached at the end. Those pages are not numbered. If your packet does not have the program attached that you need, ask your advisor or the department office staff for a copy.	

### ***How to contact the Philosophy Department office and professors:***

#### **Telephones:**

**Department Office**      323-343-4180

**Fax**                              323-343-4193

#### **Faculty offices all have direct lines;**

*numbers are listed on syllabi, on website,  
and are available from Philosophy staff.*

#### **E-mail:**

**Department Office**      dbalder@cslanet.calstatela.edu

*If you have no advisor yet, use philba@calstatela.edu to ask  
questions.*

**Faculty email addresses:** *the first initial and last name or  
first six letters of last name, e.g., agarry@calstatela.edu  
or kvernal@calstatela.edu*

**Website:** [www.calstatela.edu/dept/phil](http://www.calstatela.edu/dept/phil)

## ***2. Introduction to the Philosophy Department and to this packet***

### *Welcome to the Philosophy Department!*

The faculty members of the department are pleased that you have chosen or are considering a major or minor in Philosophy. We, of course, find it to be a field filled with important and fascinating questions and issues. We look forward to discussing many of them with you.

You'll find that philosophy classes are generally very small and provide many possibilities for interaction with faculty members. Try to take advantage of the opportunities both in and out of class to talk to faculty and to other students. Faculty members encourage you to come to our offices to discuss anything that interests you—you need not have a specific, class-related issue or advisement question in order to drop in. In addition, the department hosts two social events each year for students and faculty at the homes of faculty members. You'll receive announcements of these parties. We hope that you'll attend. (If you are not receiving regular emails from the department, give the department staff your current email address.) The department also has a reading room on the fourth floor of Engineering and Technology that is open at certain hours for students.

You need to have an advisor. All regular faculty members are student advisors; some of us specialize in undergraduate advising. Our names, office hours, phone and email addresses are posted each quarter. You may choose any advisor that you want. If you would prefer to be assigned to an advisor, consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

You need not make an appointment to see your advisor if you come during his or her office hours. *Also remember that we all make appointments to see students who cannot come during our posted office hours.* Do not be afraid to ask for an appointment at another time than those posted. You can also telephone or email your advisor with questions.

### *Student Organizations and Journal*

There is a student Philosophy Club that plans visiting speakers and panels, sometimes shows films, plans excursions, and so forth. If you would like to become active in the club speak to other students, the club's faculty advisor, or the department chair. There is also a philosophy student journal, *Philosophy in Practice*, which publishes work written by students. Any student can submit an essay to this journal which is edited each spring by the students in PHIL 4000a-b.

There is also a prelaw society that spans several departments that some philosophy majors belong to. Your advisor can tell you how to get in touch with the prelaw society.

### *What does this packet do?*

This guide for Philosophy majors and minors supplements the University *General Catalog* with informal advice and information. *It does not contradict it.* It covers some General Education information as well as major and minor information because there are some specific waivers that have been granted to Philosophy majors in GE. If you have questions, see an advisor soon (and often).

You should also get in the habit of reading the University *General Catalog* [ecatalog.calstatela.edu](http://ecatalog.calstatela.edu) and relevant websites for official information. The Cal State LA homepage is [www.calstatela.edu](http://www.calstatela.edu). If you want to check courses from other California colleges for equivalencies to CSULA's courses consult [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org). Also helpful are CSULA's advisement site [www.calstatela.edu/univ/advice](http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/advice) and the Philosophy Department site [www.calstatela.edu/dept/phil](http://www.calstatela.edu/dept/phil). The department's site contains updated course schedules as well as office hours and other helpful information.

### 3. What do Philosophy Majors DO?

When asked as children, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” most of us did not answer, “A philosopher.” Instead, students usually decide to major in philosophy after taking—and liking—one or more courses in it. The next question is often, “What will I do with a philosophy major?”

Students pursue many different careers after majoring in philosophy. Some of these careers require graduate study, for example, becoming a philosophy professor, lawyer, or minister. Others, such as elementary school teaching require a teaching credential. In still other areas such as publishing, the entertainment industry, non-profit foundations, governmental work, computer-related work, and so on, require job-specific training that is provided by employers. People who have studied philosophy as undergraduates are valued in a wide variety of careers for their developed analytical skills, their clear thinking and writing, and the broad base of their background and knowledge.

The philosophy major includes different options related to career goals. The *General Option* and *Prelaw Option* both require 38 units of philosophy courses. The pattern of courses varies. The Prelaw Option also includes 9 units from other disciplines that will help provide an especially well-rounded background for students intending to go to law school. Details are given in the sections below.

#### *The Composition of an Undergraduate Degree at CSLA for Philosophy Majors*

<b>General Option in Philosophy</b>	
GE: Lower-Division	39
GE: Upper-Division	9
Philosophy Courses	38
Electives or Minor	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>

<b>Prelaw Option in Philosophy</b>	
GE: Lower-Division	39
GE: Upper-Division	9
Philosophy Courses	38
Prelaw Option Courses outside Philosophy	9
Electives	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>

#### ***4. Information on General Education and University Requirements Specifically for Philosophy Majors and Minors***

Although many students have almost finished their GE courses before consulting a philosophy advisor, the comments below concern some of the newer requirements and specific information for philosophy majors. If you still have many GE courses to complete, your philosophy advisor can help you with your choices and with any questions you have—whether about lower-division GE or upper-division courses.

*A few important points about GE for Philosophy majors and minors.*

- Lower-division GE courses: You *are* permitted to satisfy a lower-division GE requirement by taking a course from your major department. For example, you may satisfy Blocks A3, C1, C2 or E by taking a PHIL course without restriction. Of course, you may also take courses from other departments in these blocks as well. Let's be clear about this: you are allowed (without a petition) to take PHIL courses as part of your LD GE requirements. You may not count it both as a course in your major and as a GE course unless it is an exception to this rule. PHIL 1600 is formally allowed to double-count as satisfying both GE A3 and the Formal Reasoning requirement in the Pre-Law Option. Additionally, PHIL 1510 and 1520 may be informally allowed to double count towards LD GE C2 and the Philosophy Major.
- Upper-Division GE courses: ***Philosophy majors have a special waiver so that they are allowed to take a PHIL course to meet one UD GE requirement. This course must be from the following list: PHIL 3270, PHIL 3290, PHIL 3690, and PHIL 3850.*** Let's be clear about this: you are allowed (*without a petition*) to take a PHIL course from this list as part of your UD GE requirements. You may *not* count it both as a course in your major program and as a GE course. There are no restrictions on what UD courses you choose. Let your interests be your guide.
- As part of the new GE program, students are required to take two writing intensive course (wi) of which at least one must be in the major. Since PHIL 3000 is a (wi) course and it is required, you will meet part of the requirement that way. For your other (wi) you may select any (wi) course you please. If you wish to choose another (wi) within Philosophy, we offer two. The first is the UD GE course PHIL 3330 (Engaged Philosophy). While you aren't allowed to take this course to satisfy your UD GE C requirement, it can be taken as part of your major and it will still satisfy your (wi) requirement along with a diversity (d) requirement and a civic learning (cl) requirement. The second is PHIL 4000b Advanced Philosophical Writing and Journal Production (3). This course requires special invitation from the Philosophy Department.
- As part of the new GE program, students are required to take one UD GE civic learning course (cl). You may select any UD (cl) course you please. If you wish to choose one within Philosophy, we offer PHIL 3330.
- Freshmen entering in the Semester System (under the new GE Program) must take an Introduction to Higher Education course. This course simultaneously meets LD GE Block E. You may choose from among the courses listed, although we recommend that you take AL 1010.

*Are there any special rules for minors?*

- No. You are allowed to overlap your minor and GE courses any way you wish!

*University Requirements*

- Everyone must pass the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE: UNIV 4000). It is 0 units. Please note that this is a prerequisite for PHIL 3000 (Philosophical Research and Writing). PHIL 3000 is a required course in either option.

This means that you must pass the WPE before you take PHIL 3000. We recommend that you take PHIL 3000, and therefore the WPE, as soon as possible.

***Other University Requirements and Rules...***

The University *General Catalog* contains all official information; the *Schedule of Classes* contains relevant deadlines. This packet does not cover university-wide information that all students need to know.

***5. General Advice about Philosophy Courses for ALL Philosophy Majors and Minors***

Upper-division philosophy courses (except for GE courses) are typically offered only once each year. So it is important to plan carefully to make sure to schedule the courses you want most.

***In what order should you take philosophy courses?***

Although everyone understands that students sometimes find it difficult to schedule courses in an ideal order, some recommendations are given below. A schedule of all upper-division PHIL courses for the entire academic year is available from your advisor, in the department office, or on the department's website. You'll find it very useful to consult this schedule far in advance if you must fit your classes into your work schedule or other responsibilities. In addition, the department's two-year projected schedule is available on the department's and college's website. However, don't rely heavily on the second projected year. There are always a number of changes that must be made.

- Take the following courses immediately: (1) Phil 1510: Phil Ideas: Knowledge and Reality or PHIL 1520 Phil Ideas: Human Values; (2) Phil 2500: Introduction to Symbolic Logic or PHIL 2510: Reasoning in Formal Systems. If you are in the Prelaw Option, you are permitted to take Phil 1600: Critical Thinking and Composition instead of Phil 2500 or PHIL 2510. We nevertheless strongly recommend either Phil 2500 or PHIL 2510.
- Take the 3000-level "core" courses before 4000-level courses, especially those with related subject matter. More specifically,
  - Take Phil 3000: Phil Research & Writing as soon as possible after completing your lower division philosophy courses. Remember that you must pass the WPE before taking it.
  - Take either Phil 3110: Hist of Ancient Philosophy before Phil 4500: Plato, Phil 4510: Aristotle, and Phil 4520: Medieval Philosophy;
  - Take Phil 3130: Hist of Modern Philosophy, before Phil 4580: Major Figures in Modern Philosophy, Phil 4590: Recent Philosophy, and ideally before Phil 4700: Theory of Knowledge, as well.
  - Take Phil 3040: Ethics I, before Phil 4200: Ethics II.
- Take Phil 4960: Senior Seminar, at the *last* available time before you graduate. It is a senior capstone course that is explained below under "Portfolios." It is offered in Spring Semester. Note: You must have completed PHIL 3000 before you take PHIL 4960.
- Of course, follow stated prerequisites and consult your advisor often!

***Can you count 3000-level GE classes in your major or minor?***

You may count one 3000-level GE classes on your major program as long as you meet the requirements in your option for 4000-level courses. Specific information is given under each option. Also remember that UD GE course counted for GE cannot also count in your major program.

There is no restriction on counting UD GE courses in minors.

**Portfolios**

As a way to encourage you to reflect upon your philosophy major, seniors choose several of their past philosophy papers for a “portfolio” in the senior capstone seminar, Phil 4960. This is nothing to worry about. In fact, past students have greatly enjoyed reading and reflecting on their work. In your portfolio you might consider, for example, why you chose to study philosophy, whether your philosophical interests have changed, what your responses have been to instructors’ comments on your work, and so on. There is a handout with detailed information about portfolios available in the Philosophy Department office.

**It is very important to save all of your philosophy papers** (whether written here or at a college from which you have transferred). *Save the copies, including drafts, with the instructors’ comments.* You will want the widest possible range of papers to choose from for your portfolio. Don’t assume, for example, that the papers you most dislike now will not be useful to you later. One of them might be exactly what you’ll want to reflect upon in your portfolio. Be sure to ask your professors for papers that you turn in to them at the very end of a course.

Philosophy minors are not required to take Phil 4960 and do a portfolio, but may choose to if interested.

***Are there internships or service learning opportunities in Philosophy?***

Phil 3950: Philosophy in Practice is a 1-3 unit course that gives students the opportunity to do internships or service learning. Speak with your advisor or with any other faculty member about this possibility. Students work through placements set up by EPIC and do reflective writing supervised by a philosophy faculty member. You can visit EPIC to see what kinds of opportunities there are (in the lower-level of the Career Center).

**6. And now the details of the major options in Philosophy . . .**

**6a. Option I: General Option--Details**

The General Option is the standard philosophy major. It allows for the maximum student choice of courses, both in the philosophy department and outside of the major.

<b>Major</b>	38 units
<b>General Education</b>	48 units
<b>Electives</b>	34 <u>units</u>
<b>Total for BA</b>	120 units

**Major:**

Although there are only 38 units required, many philosophy majors take many more units than this number. They use their "elective" units noted above to add to their philosophy courses. We require only 38 units so that students may tailor their programs to their own individual interests and needs. For example, students hoping to attend medical school, graduate school in philosophy, or theological seminary may all have different needs in their undergraduate curriculum. Other students might hope to work in the business world or the entertainment industry; they’d have yet another range of interests and needs.

**A: Required Courses (15 units):**

The core courses in the major should be taken as soon as possible (*except Phil 4960*). These courses lay the foundation for the rest of your work in philosophy.

Introduction

Phil 1510 Philosophical Ideas: Knowledge & Reality (3) or PHIL 1520 Philosophical Ideas: Human Values (3)

Reasoning

Phil 2500 Introduction to Symbolic Logic (3) or PHIL 2510 Reasoning in Formal Systems (3)

Writing

Phil 3000 Philosophical Research and Writing (3)

Values

Phil 3040 Ethics I (3)

Capstone

Phil 4960 Senior Seminar (2)

**B: Electives within the major (24 units):**

In order that you have a well-rounded philosophy major, you are required to take courses from three topical groups. Within these groups there is no required course order other than the stated prerequisites.

Values: Select one from the following:

PHIL 4100 Social and Political Philosophy (3)

PHIL 4130 Issues in Feminist Philosophy (3)

PHIL 4200 Ethics II (3)

PHIL 4750 Aesthetics (3)

History: Select two from following (including at least one from PHIL 3110 and PHIL 3130)

PHIL 3110 History of Ancient Philosophy (3)

PHIL 3130 History of Ancient Philosophy (3)

PHIL 4520 Medieval Philosophy (3)

PHIL 4540 Islamic Philosophy (3)

PHIL 4580 Major Figures in Modern Philosophy (3)

PHIL 4590 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (3)

PHIL 4460 Phenomenology (3)

Metaphysics and Epistemology Select two from the following (including at least one from PHIL 4050, PHIL 4600, PHIL 4700)

PHIL 4040 Inductive Logic (3)

PHIL 4050 Symbolic Logic (3)

PHIL 4060 Advanced Logic (3)

PHIL 4600 Metaphysics (3)

PHIL 4700 Theory of Knowledge (3)

PHIL 4710 Philosophy of Mind (3)

PHIL 4800 Philosophy of Language (3)

PHIL 4850 Philosophy of Science (3)

Additional Electives in the Major (9 units, including at least 6 at the 4000-level)

The rest of your major is your choice. You may take more of the courses in the three topical groups or you may take any of the other courses the department offers, including one upper-division GE course. Not more than six units of directed study courses may be included.

Consult the catalog for a complete list of philosophy courses and the Philosophy Department's annual upper-division course list for the precise schedule for the current year.

***Coordinating your major with the rest of your undergraduate education:***

***Electives outside the major (34 units):***

**It is very important to keep in mind that you need a total of 120 units to graduate.** The total number of units required for the General Option major and GE requirements courses equals only 86 units. The remaining 34 units are your choice--electives.

Don't confuse the two kinds of electives--those within the major (the 24 units) and the additional high number of units (34) "outside" your major. With the units outside the major you can take any courses you choose. You can take a minor in another subject. You can take more philosophy courses, which is a good idea if you plan to attend graduate school in philosophy. Or if, for example, you find yourself interested in aesthetics, you might want to take courses in music, art, theater, or film. If you are in a pre-med curriculum, you need to take sciences courses. If you are thinking of entering the business world, you might fill in some of your electives with relevant business courses, communication courses or psychology courses. You might want to improve your language skills in another language. Discuss various possibilities with your advisor.

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### ***6b. Option II: Prelaw Option—Details***

Law schools desire students who have developed their analytical skills, write cogently, and have a broad liberal arts background. Although the prelaw option may be chosen by any student, it is especially suited for students who want to attend law school. Both options in the philosophy major develop the analytical and critical thinking skills needed in the study and practice of law (as well as in good LSAT preparation). The prelaw option combines 9 units of relevant courses outside philosophy with a pattern of 62 units of philosophy designed to focus on important human institutions and values on which the law is based.

<b>Major</b>	47 units
<b>General Education Requirements</b>	48 units
<b>Electives</b>	<u>25 units</u>
<b>Total for BA</b>	120 units

### ***Major: Prelaw Option (47 Units)***

#### **A: Required Courses (17 units):**

The core courses in the major should be taken as soon as possible (*except Phil 4960*). These courses lay the foundation for the rest of your work in philosophy.

#### Introduction:

Phil 1510 Philosophical Ideas: Knowledge & Reality (3) or PHIL 1520 Philosophical Ideas: Human Values

#### Reasoning:

Phil 2500 Intro to Symbolic Logic (3) or PHIL 2510 Reasoning in Formal Systems (3) or Phil 1600 Crit Thinking and Comp (3)



Writing:

Phil 3000 Philosophical Research and Writing (3)

Ethics:

Phil 3040 Ethics I (3)

History:

Phil 3110 History of Ancient Philosophy (3) or Phil 3130 History of Modern Philosophy (3)

Capstone:

Phil 4960 Senior Seminar (2)

**B: Philosophy Electives within the Major (12 units):**

In order that you have a well-rounded philosophy major that emphasizes areas especially important for the study of law, you are required to take courses from two topical groups. Within these groups there is no required course order other than the stated prerequisites.

Values: Select two from the following

PHIL 4100 Social and Political Philosophy (3)

PHIL 4130 Issues in Feminist Philosophy (3)

PHIL 4200 Ethics II (3)

PHIL 4900 Philosophy of Law (3)

Metaphysics and Epistemology: Select two from the following

PHIL 4050 Symbolic Logic (3)

PHIL 4700 Theory of Knowledge (3)

PHIL 4800 Philosophy of Language (3)

PHIL 4850 Philosophy of Science (3)

Additional Electives in Philosophy: (9 units, including 6 at 4000-level)

The rest of your philosophy courses are your choice. You may take more of the courses in the two topical groups or you may take any of the other courses the department offers, including one UD GE. Not more than six units of directed study courses may be included. Consult the catalog for a complete list of philosophy courses and Philosophy Department's annual upper-division course list for the precise schedule for the current year.

**C: Prelaw Option Electives Outside Philosophy (9 units @ 4000-level):**

These 9 interdisciplinary units include courses beneficial as background for the study of law. Students often ask whether there is a list of special prelaw-option courses from which they must choose. There is not. Law schools do not require any particular courses. They want students who have taken rigorous liberal arts courses that sharpen their analytical and writing skills and help them to understand the values and institutions on which law rests.

Examples include Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology, and Communication Studies.

Examples of ways to choose your pre-law electives outside philosophy:

- Have you already developed interests in some particular fields of law, for example, family law or international law related to Asia? If so, you might use elective units to give you background. If you're interested in China or Japan, study the languages, cultures, and history. If it's family law, take relevant psychology or sociology courses related to human development, relationships, or families. (One caveat—law students sometimes change their minds about their specific legal interests.)
- Do you want to know more about law in its historical, social, economic or political contexts? If you haven't
- Do you want to work on your writing and reading skills in a nonphilosophical context? Consider taking upper-division courses in English.

- Whatever your interests, consult your advisor. These 9 units require your advisor's approval.

***Coordinating your major with the rest of your undergraduate education:***

***Electives outside the major (25 units)***

It's confusing, but there are three kinds of electives for the prelaw option major--elective philosophy courses within the major (12 units), courses outside philosophy but within the major (9 units), and an additional 25 units "outside" your major. Within the last category of 25 units you may take any courses you choose. You can start a minor in another subject, study another language, take more philosophy courses, or choose more prelaw courses from outside philosophy. As mentioned above, if you have already developed a specific interest in law, e.g., family law, you might want to use these units to strengthen your knowledge base in psychology and sociology; if it's international law in the Pacific rim, study more Asian history, cultures, and languages. (Keep in mind, however, that many people change their specific interests in law after they learn more about them.) **It is very important to remember that you need a total of 120 units to graduate. The total number of units required for your Prewal Option major and GE Requirements equals only 95 units.**

***General Education (48 units)***

Prewal option students need 9 upper-division units as well as 38 lower-division GE units. See Sec. 4. above for relevant comments on both GE and the University Requirements.

***One last question: How do I select or change my option in GET?***

1. Log in to GET.
2. Select Self Service.
3. Select Academic Records.
4. Select Major Program Information.

There will be a drop down menu for all the options in your major, if your major requires an option. Click the icon that looks like a magnifying glass.

5. Select your choice.
6. Click the "Save" function at the bottom of the page.

Your selection will be reflected in real-time.

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***7. Minors in Philosophy***

There are two minors in philosophy—General and Prewal—and a minor in Classics that is administered by the Philosophy faculty. Consult the Classics advisor concerning that minor. The Philosophy minors are explained below.

We hope that Philosophy minors participate in student and social events sponsored by the Philosophy Department. However, we can inform you of events only if you give the Department staff your address and email. Please do this.

***7a. Minor in Philosophy—General***

A 21-unit general minor in philosophy is available to all students in the university. It can be combined with any other major. For example, students who want to choose a "career oriented" major, but enjoy the study of philosophy, sometimes find that they can combine their needs and interests by minoring in philosophy. Others find a philosophy minor valuable for personal enrichment, for seeing "the big picture," or for improving their critical thinking and writing skills.

**Requirements for the Minor (21)**

**Lower Division Required Courses (6 units)**

Phil 1510 Philosophical Ideas: Knowledge and Reality (3) *or* Phil 1520 Philosophical Ideas: Human Values (3)  
Phil 2500 Introduction to Symbolic Logic (3) or PHIL 2510 Reasoning in Formal Systems (3)

**Upper Division Required Courses (6 units)**

Phil 3040 Ethics (3)  
Phil 3110 History of Ancient Philosophy (3) OR Phil 3130 History of Modern Philosophy (3)

**Electives (9 units)**

Select philosophy courses with your advisor's approval.

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**7b. Minor in Philosophy—Prelaw**

The minor in Philosophy--Prelaw is designed for students who want to attend law school and have chosen something other than philosophy as a major. It gives prelaw students background in the fundamental ideas and values of human civilization, especially Western civilization. It helps students sharpen critical and analytical skills needed for law school as well as for the LSAT. It can also be chosen by students who are not planning to attend law school, but who prefer the pattern of courses to that in the General Philosophy Minor.

**Requirements for the Prelaw Minor (21 units)**

**Lower Division Required Courses (6 units)**

Phil 1510 Philosophical Ideas: Knowledge and Reality (3) *or* Phil 1520 Philosophical Ideas: Human Values (3)  
Phil 2500 Introduction to Symbolic Logic (3) *or* PHIL 2510 Reasoning in Formal Systems *or* Phil 1600 Critical Thinking and Composition (3)

**Upper Division Required Courses (6 units)**

Phil 3040 Ethics (3)  
Phil 3110 History of Ancient Philosophy (3) *or* Phil 3130 History of Modern Philosophy (3)

**Electives (6 units)**

Select two from the following:  
Phil 4100 Social and Political Philosophy (3)  
Phil 4200 Ethics II (3)  
Phil 4900 Philosophy of Law (3)

**Additional Elective (3 units)**

Select an additional philosophy course with your advisor's approval.

**How do I select a Minor?**

Submit a "Request for New Major/New Minor"