The Philosophy Department at Cal Poly is one of the largest in the CSU system. It prides itself on excellence in teaching and the high standards met by its students. A degree in philosophy is one of the best preparations for graduate or professional school and the evidence for this is substantial. Nationally, philosophy majors outscore everyone but majors in mathematics and physics on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). Similar trends are also seen for scores in all sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), the exam required by most MBA programs.

The reason for this is unsurprising. The study of philosophy requires the meticulous development of general analytical reasoning skills. Even students not planning to go on to graduate or professional school are well served by the analytical and verbal skills developed by the study of philosophy. The ability to communicate clearly and forcefully is increasingly rare and, as a result, increasingly sought after in the job market.

Undergraduate Programs

BA Philosophy

Students can pursue a curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, including an optional concentration in Ethics and Society, and a curriculum leading to a minor in Philosophy. The department also offers courses and a minor in Religious Studies. An unusually large number of courses is offered in the history of philosophy, as well as courses in specific areas of philosophy (logic, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology), and courses that deal with the philosophical issues arising in other disciplines (e.g., philosophy of art and philosophy of science).

Concentrations

Students may choose to complete 20 units of 300-400 level philosophy courses or the concentration.

Ethics and Society

Designed for students with an interest in pursuing professional careers in which they will need to address practical ethical issues, especially careers in business, medicine, politics and law.

Philosophy Minor

The minor program in Philosophy is designed for students who want to add to their education an understanding of the history of philosophy, of contemporary trends in philosophy, and of philosophical issues relevant to their major field of study. Interested students are invited to contact the Philosophy Department Office or website for more information and application forms.

Religious Studies Minor

The Religious Studies minor program is designed for students who want to enhance their understanding of the great religious traditions of the contemporary world and some of the social issues involving these religions. The minor consists of 24 units. Interested students are invited to contact the Philosophy Department Office for more information and application forms.

PHIL Courses

PHIL 101. Introduction to Philosophy. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Foundational methods and central issues in contemporary philosophy including logic, epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. Required of all philosophy majors. Open to all majors and philosophy minors. 4 lectures. NOTE: This is not a GE course and will not count for GE credit.

PHIL 126. Logic and Argumentative Writing. 4 units
GE Area A3
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Principles of argument analysis, evaluation and construction. Deductive and inductive reasoning, including analogical arguments, universal and statistical generalizations, and causal inferences. Principles of organizing and writing argumentative essays. Moral dimensions of rational discourse. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A1 with a C- or better, or consent of instructor. Fulfills GE A3; for students admitted Fall 2016 or later a grade of C- or better is required to fulfill GE Area A3.

PHIL 230. Philosophical Classics: Knowledge and Reality. 4 units
GE Area C2
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Critical examination of primary philosophical texts, from the ancient and modern periods, with focus on the nature of reality and the sources and limits of human knowledge. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A, or for PHIL majors GE Area A3 (PHIL 126 recommended). Crosslisted as HNRS/PHIL 230. Fulfills GE C2.

PHIL 231. Philosophical Classics: Ethics and Political Philosophy. 4 units
GE Area C2
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Readings from primary philosophical texts, from the ancient and modern periods, with focus on the identification, evaluation and contemporary relevance of the central ethical and political themes and arguments presented in them. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A, or for PHIL majors GE Area A3 (PHIL 126 recommended). Crosslisted as HNRS/PHIL 231. Fulfills GE C2.

PHIL 241. Symbolic Logic. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
The nature of deductive logical systems. Methods of notation, translation and proof in sentential and predicate calculi including truth-trees and natural deduction systems. Introduction to meta-theory. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A3.
PHIL 270. Selected Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.
Directed group study of selected topics. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

PHIL 285. Ethics Bowl. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Preparation for competition in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl. Rules and format of competition, analysis and preparation of cases specific to the current year's competition. Coverage of ethical theory relevant to current cases. Field trips required. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: One of the following: PHIL 231, PHIL 331, PHIL 332, PHIL 333, PHIL 334, PHIL 335, PHIL 336, PHIL 337, PHIL 339, PHIL 340, PHIL 341 or PHIL 439; and completion of GE area A.

PHIL 309. Early Greek Philosophy through Plato. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: SP
Beginnings of Western philosophy and science in Ancient Greece. The Presocratics, Socrates, and Plato. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 310. Aristotle and Hellenistic Philosophy. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F
Development of Western philosophy and science in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Aristotle, Epicureanism, Stoicism, Skepticism. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing, or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 312. Medieval Philosophy. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W
Development of Western philosophy from Augustine to Ockham, including Anselm, Abelard, Roger Bacon, Bonaventure, Aquinas, and Duns Scotus. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 313. Early Modern Rationalism. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W
Development of Western philosophy from the late Renaissance through Leibniz, with special emphasis upon the epistemology and metaphysics of the Continental Rationalists. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 314. Early Modern Empiricism. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: SP
Development of Western philosophy from the Renaissance through Mill, with special emphasis on British Empiricism. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 315. Kant and 19th Century European Philosophy. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F
Primary issues and concepts found in German philosophy from 1780 to 1900, with emphasis on Kant, Hegel, and Nietzsche. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 317. History of Analytic Philosophy. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: SP
Major developments within 20th century British and American philosophy, with focus chiefly around Analytic philosophy. Other schools, such as Pragmatism, may be included, as may some philosophers outside of Britain and America whose work was influential in those countries. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 318. Phenomenology. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F
Methods and uses of phenomenological analysis through study of 20th century philosophers and contemporary applications. Topics include phenomenological method, perception, meaning, and the role of experience in philosophical inquiry. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE area A, and GE C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 319. Existentialism. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W
Major existentialist philosophers of the 19th and 20th century such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Merleau-Ponty, and Marcel. Existentialist themes in historical or contemporary context. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE area A and GE C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 320. Asian Philosophy. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: SP
Philosophies developed in India, South Asia, China and Japan, including the logical and epistemological presuppositions of the Six Schools of Hindu metaphysics, Buddhist philosophy, Confucian moral philosophy, Taoist metaphysics and social ecology. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 321. Philosophy of Science. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W
The rational foundations of inquiry and explanation in the physical, biological and social sciences. Justification of scientific claims, the difference between science and pseudoscience, the relationship between science and other fields of investigation. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.
PHIL 322. Philosophy of Technology. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Analyses of the philosophical foundations and implications of technology. Technology and the human condition, technology and philosophical ethics, technology and political philosophy, technology and the metaphysics of human nature, and the relationship between science and technology. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 323. Ethics, Science and Technology. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: SP
Ethical decision-making as applied to issues such as the use of robots, the treatment of animals, sustainability, scientific fraud, feminist analysis of science and technology, as well as questions about whether technology is just a value-neutral tool or, rather, embodies certain values. 4 lectures. Prerequisites: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE area A and GE C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 327. Robot Ethics. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W
Introduction, short history, and overview of robot (meta)ethics, with applied ethics issues to include programming, environment, military uses, sex, legal implications, risk, liability, diversity, sustainability, healthcare, education, religion, and the home. Finally, future issues of robot rights and personhood. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE area A and GE C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 328. Technologies and Ethics of Warfare. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W
Ethics of killing in warfare, including requirements of justice in declaring and waging war. Topics include terrorism, remotely piloted aircraft (‘drones’), autonomous weapons (‘killer robots’), cyber warfare, nuclear war, city bombing, and humanitarian intervention. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A and C2. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 332. History of Ethics. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: TBD
The history of moral thought from Homer and the Pre-Socratics to the 20th century, and focus on theories of moral goodness and rightness of action. Related issues and areas of thought, e.g. metaphysics, theology, science, politics, psychology freedom/determinism to be considered, where they shed light on moral thought. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 333. Political Philosophy. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: SP
Analyses of the philosophical foundations of political ideologies, including theories of political authority, legitimacy, obligation, and rights, and of the proper function of the state, and the relation of these theories to issues in meta-physics, theory of knowledge, and ethics. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 334. Philosophy of Law. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W

PHIL 335. Social Ethics. 4 units
GE Area C4; USCP
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Examination of contemporary moral problems, solutions to these problems, and the arguments for these solutions, with emphasis on two or more of the following sample problem areas: abortion, suicide and euthanasia, capital punishment, family ethics, race relations, social justice, war, women's issues. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Area A and C2. Crosslisted as PHIL 335/HNRS 336. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors. Fulfills USCP.

PHIL 336. Feminist Ethics, Gender, Sexuality and Society. 4 units
GE Area C4; USCP
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Critical examination of the relations between gender, sexuality, ethnicity, society and ethics from feminist perspectives, with special attention paid to problems in contemporary applied ethics. Joint focus on theory and application. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Crosslisted as PHIL/WGS 336. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors. Fulfills USCP.

PHIL 337. Business Ethics. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W
Critical examination of ethical problems that arise in business. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.
PHIL 339. Biomedical Ethics. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Critical examination of problems in biomedical ethics, proposed solutions to these problems, and the arguments for such solutions. Emphasis on two or more of the following sample problem areas: concepts of health and disease, human experimentation, informed consent, behavior control, genetic intervention, new birth technologies, euthanasia and physician-assisted dying. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 340. Environmental Ethics. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F
Analyses of various positions on the moral status of nonhuman entities and problems such as the treatment of animals, wilderness preservation, population, pollution and global warming. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 341. Professional Ethics. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W
Moral problems as they arise in professions such as law, medicine, engineering, research and education: deception, paternalism, confidentiality, discrimination and others. Consideration of various professional codes of ethics. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 342. Philosophy of Religion. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Inquiry into the rational and nonrational bases of religious claims. Arguments for and against the existence of God. Discussion of miracles, revelation, the definition of God, the problem of evil, the relation of faith and reason, the nature of religious experience, the verification of religious claims. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 343. Continental Political Philosophy. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F
Analysis of political thought in major movements in 20th- and 21st-century European philosophy, such as deconstruction, existentialism, and phenomenology. Emphasis on political issues, such as cultural membership, exclusion, structural injustice, secularism, and the political impact of technology. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE area A and GE C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 344. Aesthetics. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: SP
Critical examination of philosophical views of art from both a historical and contemporary perspective. Treatment of theories from Plato and Aristotle through those of the twentieth century. Discussion of the problems raised by modern art. The relation between aesthetic values and metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and politics. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 345. Philosophy of Literature. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F
Primary issues and developments in European philosophy in the second half of the 20th century. Examination of the influence of postmodern philosophy in areas such as art, literature, architecture, culture studies, philosophy of language, and philosophy of religion. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing or Philosophy major; completion of GE area A and GE C2. Fulfills GE C4 except for Philosophy majors.

PHIL 346. Advanced Ethics Bowl. 2 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Preparation for ongoing participation in Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl competitions. Preparation and discussion of current competition cases, development of research and presentation skills, and participation in competition. Field trips required. 2 lectures. Total credit limited to 6 units. Prerequisite: PHIL 285. Credit/No Credit grading only.

PHIL 347. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Individual investigation, research, studies or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 8 units, with a maximum of 4 units per quarter.

PHIL 348. Metaphysics. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

PHIL 349. Epistemology. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Analysis of the concept of knowledge. Development of competing theories of epistemic justification and truth. Inquiry into relationship between knowledge, belief, justification and truth. Examination of skepticism. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.
PHIL 421. Philosophy of Space, Time and Matter. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Investigation of the philosophical foundations and interpretation of relativity theory and elementary quantum mechanics. Emphasis on philosophical issues relevant to contemporary philosophy of science such as scientific realism. Some discussion of very recent theories of space, time, and matter. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

PHIL 422. Philosophy of Mind. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F  
Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

Classic and current work in the problems and issues of the nature and unity of the self, consciousness, mental representations, and action, and of the relation of philosophy of mind to psychology, linguistics and computer science. 4 lectures.

PHIL 423. Philosophy of Language. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: W  
Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

Traditional and contemporary philosophical issues that arise from the structure of language. Relevant concepts include: syntax, semantics, pragmatics, meaning, reference, truth, identity, thought, reality. Important distinctions: use/mention, relations/properties of relations, sentences/statements/propositions. 4 lectures.

PHIL 429. Special Topics in the History of Philosophy. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: W, SP  
Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

Advanced discussion of selected topics in the history of philosophy. Examination and analysis of important philosophical movements (e.g., positivism, postmodernism) or alternatively, of particular philosophers or philosophical works of exceptional importance (e.g., David Hume; Kant's Critique of Pure Reason). The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. 4 lectures.

PHIL 439. Selected Problems in Ethics and Political Philosophy. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Advanced discussion of selected topics in ethics and political philosophy. Examination and analysis of significant ethical or political theories (e.g., utilitarianism, contractarianism) or alternatively, of particular philosophers or philosophical works of exceptional importance (e.g., John Stuart Mill; John Rawls' A Theory of Justice). The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

PHIL 449. Selected Topics in Recent Philosophy. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area C2.

Advanced discussion of selected topics in recent philosophy. Examination and analysis of important recent movements in central philosophical areas (e.g., metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of science, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind) or, alternatively, of particular philosophers or philosophical works of exceptional recent importance. The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units credit; may be repeated in same term. 4 lectures.

PHIL 451. Ethics in the Sciences. 3 units  
Term Typically Offered: W  
The practice, performance and application of science from the standpoint of ethics. Includes issues involving plagiarism, data handling, fraud, safety and selected applications in specific science careers. Models for the analysis and resolution of ethical dilemmas are presented. 3 seminars. Prerequisite: Junior standing. Crosslisted as PHIL/SCM 451.

PHIL 460. Senior Project I. 2 units  
CR/NC  
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU  
Prerequisite: PHIL 225 or PHIL 241, senior standing, and consent of instructor; Philosophy majors only.

Selection, development and completion of a project under faculty supervision. Results presented in a formal thesis. Minimum of 60 hours per quarter. PHIL 460 is graded on a CR/NC basis.

PHIL 461. Senior Project II. 2 units  
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU  
Prerequisite: PHIL 460; student must also receive a passing score on the senior examination in order to enroll in PHIL 461; Philosophy majors only.

Selection, development and completion of a project under faculty supervision. Results presented in a formal thesis. Minimum of 60 hours per quarter. Work in PHIL 461 is given a letter grade.

PHIL 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. Class Schedule will list topics selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1-4 lectures.

RELS Courses  
RELS 201. Religion, Dialogue, and Society. 4 units  
GE Area D3  
Term Typically Offered: F  
The way in which interactions between religious traditions shape society at various levels. Case studies drawn from eastern and western religious traditions during the ancient and modern periods. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE D3.

RELS 205. Jesus. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: SP  
Exploration and analysis of the person of Jesus. Includes examination of our sources of knowledge about him, his self-understanding, and various interpretations of him in historical, comparative, and contemporary settings. 4 lectures.

RELS 270. Selected Topics. 1-4 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.
RELS 301. Religions of Asia. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: SP
Comparative study of the religions of Asia, particularly Hinduism, Buddhism, and the religions of China. Topics include historical continuities/discontinuities, worldviews, sacred texts, practices, responses to modernity, the place of women across the traditions. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 302. Abrahamic Religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: SP
An introduction to the global religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, with a focus on their shared origin in the Patriarch Abraham. Topics include for each religion: the origins, worldview, scripture, practices, and relationship to modernity. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 304. Judaism. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F

RELS 306. Hinduism. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: SP
Origins, beliefs and practices of Hinduism from the Veda and the Upanishads through the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita and the Puranas. Modern Hindu institutions, saints and sages, and social philosophy contrasted with the ancient. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 307. Buddhism. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W
Buddhist origins, viewpoints and practices will be seen in their development in India, Tibet, China, Japan, South Asia and America. The life of Buddha, Gautama, the rise of Theravada, Mahayana and Tantra. Encounters with Shinto and Confucianism. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 310. Christianity. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F
The development of the Christian religion from the story of Jesus, the New Testament, Church formation, the role of St. Paul, dissenting ideas, Protestant and Catholic views, and contemporary issues of conscience, such as the Social Gospel and liberation theologies. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 311. Islam. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W
The development of Islamic civilization from the inspiration of the Qur’an and the Prophet Muhammad and the Sunni-Shi'i split to contemporary political and social issues. Emphasis of Sufi literature, art, architecture, and philosophies of Islam. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 344. Approaches to Religion and Spirituality. 4 units
GE Area D5
Term Typically Offered: SP
An introduction to a global religions from an academic perspective by surveying the various historical approaches employed within the discipline of religious studies to collect, analyze, and interpret religious phenomena cross-culturally. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A and D3 or D4. Fulfills GE D5.

RELS 370. Religion, Gender, and Society. 4 units
GE Area C4; USCP
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Critical examination of religious ideas and institutions in the United States. Focus on interlocking systems of sex, gender, race, class and religion; individual and group experiences at the intersection of religion, politics and culture. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Crosslisted as RELS/WGS 370. Fulfills GE C4 and USCP.

RELS 372. Spiritual Extremism: Asceticism, Mysticism, and Madness. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F
Shaping influence of ascetics, mystics and the insane on global religious traditions. Topics may include the relationship between spiritual extremists and society, cultural construction of holiness and insanity, and literary depictions of spiritual extremists. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 374. Religion and Violence. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W
Historical and contemporary case studies of how various religions have condoned, motivated and justified violence. The place of sacrifice, martyrdom, self-injury and forced conversion in religious doctrines. Representations of religious violence in the media. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 376. Religion, Science and Technology. 4 units
GE Area F
Term Typically Offered: W
Interdisciplinary investigation of relationships between religion, science and technology, including the ethical implications of various technologies. Topics may include human origins, medical technology, environment, reproduction, social media and emerging technologies. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE area F.
RELS 378. Religion and Contemporary Values. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F
Descriptive analysis of how diverse religious traditions construct moral decisions about a variety of contemporary issues including sexuality, ecology, and justice. Challenges for religious value systems in secular and pluralistic societies. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Areas A and C2. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 380. Religion and Politics in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
The root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its current manifestation. Possibilities for solutions from the perspectives of religious studies and political science. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A. Recommended: Completion of one class in POLS or RELS. Crosslisted as POLS/RELS 380.

RELS 400. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Consent of department chair and instructor.

Individual investigation, research, studies or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 4 units.

RELS 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. The Schedule of Classes will list topics selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1-4 lectures. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.