

The Department of Philosophy

provides an opportunity for every student to continue, in more structured, critical terms, the spontaneous inquiry into basic questions man has raised from the beginning of time—questions about himself, about God, about the world in which he lives, and the way in which he ought to live.

The word “philosophy” itself, love of wisdom, indicates that the search is not concerned with superficial explanations, but probes beyond appearances for fundamental principles and causes.

Hence courses are offered not only to satisfy a major but also to provide an opportunity for students who are interested in a closer examination of one or more areas of philosophical inquiry as a worthwhile supplement and broadening factor to their specialized field of study.

JOHN F. HENNING INSTITUTE

The Department of Philosophy hosts the John F. Henning Institute, a center for the study of Catholic social thought, with special emphasis on the question of human work and its centrality to the common good. Students are invited to take part in the institute’s program of academic conferences and lectures, publications and seminars



PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

Program Chair:

Patrick Downey, Ph.D.,
Philosophy

Steve A. Cortright, Ph.D.
Integral Program, Philosophy

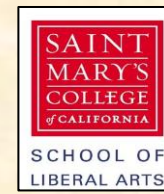
Wayne Harter, Ph.D.,
Philosophy

Deepak Sawhney, Ph.D.,
Philosophy



CONTACT US

For more information please contact:
Wayne Harter (925) 631-4463
wharter@stmarys-ca.edu

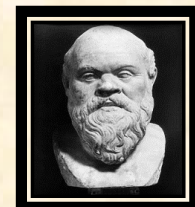


PHILOSOPHY



THE EXAMINED LIFE

“You see, the man who has been thus far guided in matters of Love, who has beheld beautiful things in the right order and correctly, is coming now to the goal of Loving: all of a sudden he will catch sight of something wonderfully beautiful in its nature; that, Socrates, is the reason for all his earlier labors.”



MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

LOWER DIVISION

Philosophy 10 or **11** is required of all students.

UPPER DIVISION

The major in philosophy requires eight upper-division courses. The **130-131** and **135-136** sequences are required of all majors. In addition, all majors elect at least one course from **Philosophical Topics: 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 120, 133, 134, 161, 182** and from **Authors/Schools: 160, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178**, and elect one further course from either category or undertake an approved **197 Special Study** or **199 Honors** course. In the senior year, candidates for the degree undertake an approved **196/198 Senior Thesis**.

Majors planning graduate study are advised to take French or German (for study in modern philosophy), Latin (for study in medieval philosophy), or Greek and Latin (for study in classical philosophy).

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

The minor in philosophy requires one lower- (**10** or **11**), and four upper-division courses (the **130-131** sequence or the **135-136** sequence), and one course from each of the categories, Philosophical Topics and Authors/Schools).

REREQUISITE GRADE

Any course listed in this department with a prerequisite assumes a grade of C- or better in the prerequisite course.



COURSES

LOWER DIVISION

- 5 Practical Logic**
- 10 Plato and Philosophical Inquiry**
- 11 Aristotle and Philosophical Method**

UPPER DIVISION

PHILOSOPHICAL TOPICS

- 110 Philosophy of Religion
- 111 Philosophy of Art
- 113 Contemporary Problems in Ethics
- 114 Philosophy of Law
- 115 Modern Legal Philosophy
- 116 Political Philosophy
- 117 Philosophy of Nature
- 118 Theory of Knowledge
- 120 The Bible and Philosophy
- 130-131-Ethics
- 133 The Art of Logic
- 135-136 Metaphysics
- 182- Philosophy Goes to the Movies

AUTHORS AND SCHOOLS

- 160 A Critical Reading of the Principal Works of a Single Major Author or School of Philosophy
- 161 Philosophy of History
- 170 Contemporary Philosophy
- 172 Existentialism
- 174 Greek Philosophy
- 176 Medieval Philosophers
- 178 Renaissance Philosophers
- 182 Philosophy Goes to the Movies
- 196 Senior Thesis
- 198 Senior Thesis – Honors
- 197 Special Study

An independent study or research course for students whose needs are not met by the regular course offerings of the department. *Permission of the department chair and instructor required.*

- 199 Special Study – Honors

An independent study or research course for upper-division majors with a B average in philosophy. Permission of the department chair and instructor required.

