

## THE NEW PHILOSOPHY MAJOR (Effective Fall 2005)

### REQUIRED COURSES (20 UNITS)

1.	PHIL 201	Ancient Philosophy.....	3
2.	PHIL 202	Modern Philosophy.....	3
3.	PHIL 230	Introduction to Formal Logic.....	3
4.	Choose one of the following courses:		
	PHIL 346	Social and Political Philosophy.....	4
	PHIL 360	Ethical Theory.....	4
5.	Choose one of the following courses:		
	PHIL 350	Epistemology and Metaphysics.....	4
	PHIL 355	Minds and Reality.....	4
6.	PHIL 497	Senior Research Seminar.....	3

### ELECTIVES (24 UNITS)

Choose eight courses (24 units), subject to the following conditions:

- At least four courses (12 units) must be 400 level philosophy courses (other than PHIL 497 and PHIL 499).
- Other eligible electives include all philosophy courses numbered 210 and higher, excluding those taken as requirements in 1-6 above.
- Up to 6 elective units may be in closely related upper division courses outside the department (subject to the approval of the department advisor and the department chair).

### TOTAL UNITS IN THE MAJOR (44 UNITS)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**Q: Do I have to satisfy these new requirements in order to graduate with a B.A. in philosophy?**

**A:** Only those who come to CSUN in Fall 2005 or later will be required to satisfy the requirements for the new major. Those who were admitted to CSUN prior to Fall 2005 can graduate either by satisfying the requirements for the new major or by satisfying the requirements for one of the two old majors: the standard major or the optional major.

**Q: Should I opt for this new major and graduate by satisfying these requirements?**

A: It depends. You probably should not opt for this new major if any of the following apply: (1) you've already taken PHIL 100 in order to satisfy the basic program of the optional major, (2) you've taken two or more of 350, 355, and 360 prior to Fall 2005, or (3) you are planning to graduate before Fall 2005. You probably should opt for this new major if both of the following apply: (1) you've taken no more than one of 350, 355, and 360 prior to Fall 2005 and (2) you are planning to graduate in Fall 2005 or later.

**Q: I see that PHIL 350, 355, and 360 are going to be 4-unit courses starting Fall 2005. Why is this?**

A: In response to students' suggestions that we provide more instruction on philosophical writing and methodology early on in the major, we've added an extra unit (and a corresponding an extra hour per week of instruction) to these courses so that we can provide this much-needed instruction on philosophical writing and methodology in addition to covering the substantive philosophical content that these courses involve.

**Q: I see that PHIL 350, 355, and 360 are going to be 4-unit courses starting Fall 2005. How does this affect me?**

A: It depends. See the bulleted item below that fits your situation.

- If you've taken none of PHIL 350, 355, and 360 prior to Fall 2005, then you should opt for the new major. In that case, you will need to fulfill requirements 4 and 5 above by taking the requisite 4-unit versions of these courses.
- If you've taken only one of PHIL 350, 355, and 360 prior to Fall 2005, then you should opt for the new major. In that case, you will use whichever one of these three that you've already taken as an elective for the new major. You'll still need to fulfill requirements 4 and 5 above by taking the requisite 4-unit courses. For instance, if you've taken 350 or 355 prior to Fall 2005, you'll need to take the other of the two to fulfill requirement 5 above. And, if you've instead taken 360 prior to Fall 2005, you'll need to take the new 4-unit course, PHIL 346, to satisfy requirement 4 above.
- If you've taken exactly two of PHIL 350, 355, and 360 prior to Fall 2005, then you should opt for either the standard major or the optional major and take the remainder of the three as a 4-unit course. This means that you'll have to take one extra unit to complete the requirements for the philosophy major, but this extra unit will serve you well in preparing for PHIL 497, the Senior Research Seminar.
- If you've taken all of PHIL 350, 355, and 360 prior to Fall 2005, then you should opt for either the standard major or the optional major and you won't have to take any 4-unit courses, although you might want to take PHIL 346 as an elective (a new 4-unit course) if you feel that you could use some instruction in philosophical writing and methodology.

**Q: I've taken PHIL 210 but I want to opt for the new major. What should I do?**

A: You can use PHIL 210 as one of your electives for the new major. You'll now need to take PHIL 230 to satisfy requirement 1 above.

**Q: I see that the new major allows one to take six elective units in closely related upper division courses outside the department (subject to the approval of the department advisor and the**

**department chair). How do I know what counts as a closely related course, and how do I get my proposed course or courses approved?**

A: See the flyer “Choosing Electives by Topical Interests.” This flyer includes a list of non-philosophy courses that have been pre-approved by both the department chair and the academic advisor. To enquire about a course not already on the list, please consult with the academic advisor. Of course, you should note that you don’t have to take any non-philosophy courses; you can use nothing but philosophy courses to fulfill the required electives.

**Q: I’m opting for the new major. How should I choose the eight elective courses that are required by the major?**

A: What electives you should choose depends on what your objectives are. For those who are interested in pursuing law school or graduate school in philosophy after graduation, the department has advisement sheets that will help you in choosing your electives. Those who have other specific aspirations should consult with the academic advisor. You may also want to consult the department’s flyer entitled “Choosing Electives by Topical Interests.” This flyer lists both philosophy courses and closely related non-philosophy by topical interests. Also, you should consult the academic advisor and the department’s flyer entitled “Projected Course Offerings” when choosing electives.

**Q: How does this new major differ from the standard major?**

A: There are number of differences:

1. On the new major, you must take PHIL 230, whereas on the standard major you had the choice of taking either PHIL 230 or PHIL 210.
2. The total units required by the new major is 44 as opposed to 39 for the standard major.
3. Unlike the standard major, the new major permits the use of up to 6 elective units from closely related upper division courses outside the department (subject to the approval of the department advisor and the department chair) toward satisfying the 44 units required.
4. In contrast to the standard major, the new major allows for much more flexibility in choosing your courses.
5. Whereas the standard major requires that you take all of PHIL 350, 355, and 360, the new major requires that you take either PHIL 350 or 355 and that you take either PHIL 346 or 360.

**Q: How does this new major differ from the optional major?**

A: There are number of differences:

1. On the new major, you must take PHIL 230, whereas on the optional major you had the choice of taking either PHIL 230, 210, or 100.
2. The total units required by the new major is 44 as opposed to 45-46 for the optional major.
3. Whereas the standard major requires that you take all of PHIL 350, 355, and 360, the new major requires that you take either PHIL 350 or 355 and that you take either PHIL 346 or 360.
4. The new major requires students to take a minimum of four 400-level philosophy courses, whereas the optional major requires a minimum of three 400-level philosophy courses.
5. Like the optional major, the new major gives students a lot of flexibility in choosing their courses and allows them to use courses from outside of philosophy. But, unlike the optional major, the new major doesn’t require students to do any additional paperwork, such as, an optional major proposal or a written statement of objectives.

**Q: I have questions that aren’t answered here. What should I do?**

A: You should meet with the academic advisor, who will happy to answer any questions that you have.