New Major of Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics, and Law

This new interdisciplinary major, unique of its kind the country, combines in a systematic and structured way basic education in philosophy, political theory, and elements of law. It should be of particular interest to students contemplating post-graduate work in law; those interested in a career in public service or politics; and those attracted by the rigor of philosophy, and its attention to foundational issues, who are also interested in politics and law. Students are exposed to a wide range of conceptual and methodological approaches, while learning enough philosophy and political science to leave a choice of options for graduate schools.

This new major at the USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences will be available from the next academic year (2009/10). Students currently enrolled at USC may also apply for transferring to this major if they can complete the distribution requirements during their remaining years of study.

For further details please contact the School of Philosophy.

Faculty Advisor for this program: Professor Andrei Marmor

The PPL Major Requirements

Nine classes, distributed as follows.

1. One lower-division class from the following list of classes:

   PHIL 140g        Contemporary Moral and Social Issues
   PHIL 141g        The Professions and the Public Interest in American Life
   PHIL 262g        Mind and Self: Modern Conceptions
   POSC 130g        Law, Politics, and Public Policy

2. One course in Logic

   PHIL 350        Symbolic Logic
   PHIL 351        Reasoning and Logic

3. One course in Philosophy of Law

   PHIL 430        Philosophy of Law
   PHIL 431        Law, Society, and Politics

4. One additional course in Moral and Political Philosophy

   PHIL 335        Theoretical Models of Leadership
   PHIL 337        History of Modern Political Philosophy
   PHIL 340        Ethics
   PHIL 437        Social and Political Philosophy
   PHIL 440        Contemporary Ethical Theory
   PHIL 442        History of Ethics to 1900
PHIL 443  Value Theory

5. One course in the History of Philosophy or a systematic area of Philosophy

History of Philosophy:

PHIL 300  Introduction to Philosophical Classics
PHIL 315  History of Western Philosophy: Ancient Period
PHIL 317  History of Western Philosophy: Medieval Period
PHIL 320  History of Western Philosophy: Modern Period
PHIL 423  The Critical Philosophy of Kant
PHIL 426  20th Century European Philosophy
PHIL 427  20th Century Anglo-American Philosophy
PHIL 428  Anglo-American Philosophy since 1950

Systematic areas of Philosophy:

PHIL 360  Epistemology and Metaphysics
PHIL 462  Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 463  Theories of Action
PHIL 465  Philosophy of Language
PHIL 470  Theory of Knowledge

6. One course in Constitutional Politics

POSC 335  Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections
POSC 340  Constitutional Law
POSC 426  The Supreme Court
POSC 444  Civil and Political Rights and Liberties

7. One course in Comparative or International Politics and Law

ANTH 345  Politics, Social Organization, and Law
POSC 345  International Law
POSC 440  Comparative Law and the Judicial Process
POSC 448a  The Politics of Peace: Human Rights

8. One course in Politics, Law, and Public Policy

POSC 347  Environmental Law
POSC 349  Women and the Law (Enroll in SWMS 349)
POSC 395  Directed Governmental and Political Leadership Internship (4 units)
POSC 443  Law in Film
POSC 452  Critical Issues in Law and Public Policy

9. One course in the Gould School of Law

LAW 300  Basic Concepts in American Law