**YC Philosophy**

# Mission Statement

The mission of the philosophy department is: (1) to make all students who take philosophy courses intellectually more rigorous (where intellectual rigor consists in being

(i) explicit, (ii) precise, and (iii) meticulously correct about matters of logic), and (2) to prepare students (who intend to do so) to pursue advanced studies in the field or in fields for which training in philosophy (and its attendant intellectual rigor) is especially important, such as Mathematics, Medicine, Law, and Religious Studies. Both aspects of the mission are accomplished by: (i) developing students’ ability to reason, (ii) acquainting students with a selection of fundamentally important philosophical arguments, claims, problems, and paradoxes, and (iii) training students in the intellectually rigorous expression of their own claims and arguments.

# Program/Major Goals

1. Philosophy majors will be able to analyze and evaluate arguments.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

(1a) Students will be able to apply basic techniques of formal logic to distinguish valid from invalid arguments.

(1b) Students will be able to extract arguments from English prose.

1. Philosophy majors will be well acquainted with philosophical issues pertinent to the field.

Student Learning Objectives:

(2a) Students will be able to communicate a selection of fundamentally important philosophical arguments, claims, problems, and paradoxes; and (in appropriate courses) sophisticated proofs.

(2b) Students will be able to wield their knowledge of philosophical claims and arguments in discussions of contemporary scientific, religious, and social issues.

1. Philosophy majors will be able to construct their own philosophical arguments.

Student Learning Objectives:

(3a) Students will be able to exhibit original and valid arguments

for philosophical claims, and to respond in an intellectually serious way to criticisms of the premises of the argument.

(3b) Students will be able to determine whether a particular argument has already been offered in the philosophical literature.

1. Philosophy majors will be able to effectively communicate philosophical arguments.

Student Learning Objectives:

(4a) Students will be able to compose philosophy essays that are intellectually rigorous—where intellectual rigor consists in being (i) explicit, (ii) precise, and (iii) meticulously correct about matters of logic—and (where appropriate) original.

(4b) Students will be able to present their philosophical work in philosophy seminars and at undergraduate philosophy conferences.

# Curriculum Map

SLOs Required Courses/Learning Experiences

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1100 | 1130 | 1220 | 1320 1360 | 1400 1550 | 1600 | 1800 | 2170 | 2420 | 3402 | 4931 |
| 1a | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X |
| 1b | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X |  |  | X |
| 2a |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 2b |  |  |  |  |  | X | X | X |  |  | X | X | X |
| 3a |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X |
| 3b |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  | X | X |
| 4a |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 4b |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X |