



## **Fine Arts: Philosophy**

### **Instruction**

#### **Vision/Narrative**

The Philosophy Program at Gavilan College strives to create and maintain courses that are in alignment with the College Mission of cultivating creativity, curiosity and student learning. To that end, the Program offers a wide range of courses, each of which look to foster an awareness of the individual learner as a member of the global community. The Philosophy Program offers a Certificate which can create a foundation for further study in Philosophy at the university level as well enhance other majors, as the Certificate is one that rests upon the core content of Philosophy, as a vehicle for critical thinking and inquiry into the deeper questions that motivate academics, and career, and one's life. The Philosophy Program aspires to instill the value of critical thinking as the essence of philosophical inquiry, at the forefront of all of its offerings. The Philosophy Program has a three-fold vision. First, the program seeks to expand its offerings such that all philosophy courses can be offered on the Main Campus, Hollister, and the Morgan Hill site. Second, the Philosophy Program is committed to the further enhancement of the Humanities as an integral part of the educational experience for all learners – in a re-vitalized, global, and creative manner. Third, the Philosophy Program seeks to further develop its offerings in religious studies and ethics and to be capable of offering a Philosophy Major rather than a Certificate of Emphasis.

#### **Feedback from Supervisor / Dean**



**Program Objective 1: Foster students ability to distinguish between scholarly and non-scholarly sources.**

**Strategy and Goal(s):**

Strategy #6: Commitment to the practice of continuous quality improvement in accordance with accreditation standards.

Goal #1: Through structured planning, engage college constituents in reflection, research and evaluation in the writing of the college's pre-accreditation visit Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER).

**IEC Program Review:**

Yes, this Objective is based from the last IEC Program Review.

**Progress:**

Yes: Each philosophy course is specifically designed to challenge students to utilize scholarly sources, mainly through research and argumentative papers.

Instructors make the students aware of what constitutes a scholarly source and non-scholarly source and why the former is preferable and the latter should be avoided. Additionally, every course in the philosophy program is designed to facilitate the students' critical thinking skills; these skills include developing the abilities to distinguish valid and cogent arguments from fallacious arguments, to be able to distinguish between inductive and deductive reasoning, to distinguish between a valid deductive argument and a sound deductive arguments, and to develop the ability to recognize logical fallacies and/or rhetorical devices in any given argument they are confronted with.

**Rankings:**

Ranker	Comments	Rank
Dean		
Vice-President		
Budget Committee		
President's Council		



## **Program Objective 2: Make the Philosophy Program more Visible**

### **Strategy and Goal(s):**

Not Applicable: RESUBMITTED: Copied from Academic Year 2012-13

### **IEC Program Review:**

Yes, this Objective is based from the last IEC Program Review.

### **Progress:**

No: Budget cuts do not permit the addition of sections in the program. Further, because of the budget constraint, the philosophy department must simplify and streamline due to limited staff

### **Activity 1: Offer a full range of classes, in rotation, with the off-site**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

### **Activity 2: Coordinate with GECA**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

### **Activity 3: Create a partnership with GAVtv and develop a summer program**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

### **Activity 4: Have a under-graduate Philosophy Journal if outside funding can be found in the next 5 years**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

### **Activity 5: Invite a Philosophy Conference to Gavilan on Religious Diversity and Society -- by 2015**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

### **Activity 6: Create a partnership with the Humanities Department at Gavilan**

**Personnel Request - *none***



**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

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**Program Objective 3: Facilitate students' ability to think critically**

**Strategy and Goal(s):**

Not Applicable: RESUBMITTED: Copied from Academic Year 2012-13

**IEC Program Review:**

Yes, this Objective is based from the last IEC Program Review.

**Progress:**

Yes: In philosophy 4, students are required to do a research paper on modern examples of Arendt's banality of evil. In addition to identification they are asked to propose a solution to solve or avoid falling prey to this type of evil. On average 75% of students pass the assignment with a B or better.

In Philosophy 2 (introduction to Logic) students were required to demonstrate competency in constructing truth tables, testing categorical syllogisms for validity, and in solving elementary formal logic derivations. 83% of students were able to effectively perform these tasks, and the instructor has begun to introduce additional instructional material to further facilitate students' mastery of these concepts.

In Philosophy 3A and 3B, students are required to give presentations on contemporary ethical issues, fairly presenting both sides of the debate and linking proponents arguments to rationale of the ethical theorists.

In Philosophy 7A (Ancient Philosophy) and Philosophy 7B (Early Modern Philosophy) the goal is to prepare the students for junior and senior level course work in the major at a CSU or UC; to that end, the students are required to write a term paper of between eight and ten pages in which they support or critique the views of canonical figures in the aforementioned historical eras in philosophy. 85% of students were able to accomplish this goal, which includes a succinct statement of the issue under consideration, a statement of the student's position on that issue, an argument in support of their position, consideration of a counter-argument, and a response to the counter-argument. The students are also encouraged to engage with scholarly secondary sources in peer-reviewed journals and texts to further support their theses.

**Rankings:**

Ranker	Comments	Rank
Dean		
Vice-President		
Budget Committee		
President's Council		



**Program Objective 4: Expand the course offerings in the Evening, Morgan Hill, and Hollister**

**Strategy and Goal(s):**

Not Applicable: RESUBMITTED: Copied from Academic Year 2012-13

**IEC Program Review:**

Yes, this Objective is based from the last IEC Program Review.

**Progress:**

No- None -

**Activity 1: Hire a 1/2 time or another full time instructor to meet the growing needs of the discipline**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

**Rankings:**

Ranker	Comments	Rank
Dean		
Vice-President		
Budget Committee		
President's Council		



**Program Objective 5: Expand the Philosophy Course Offerings on-line**

**Strategy and Goal(s):**

Not Applicable: RESUBMITTED: Copied from Academic Year 2012-13

**IEC Program Review:**

Yes, this Objective is based from the last IEC Program Review.

**Progress:**

Yes: Philosophy 1 and Philosophy 6 have been offered as distance courses as of Fall 2010. The philosophy program will endeavor to offer Philosophy 3A and 3B (Ethical Theory and Moral Issues) as online offerings beginning in the Fall Semester 2019.

**Activity 1: update curriculum for Philosophy 3A , Philosophy 3B, and Philosophy 2 for online delivery**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

**Activity 2: Offer Philosophy 1 online in the Fall and Philosophy 6 online in the Spring and Summer**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

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