

# PHIL 156: PHILOSOPHY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

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## In Workflow

1. PHIL Committee Chair (grandolphmayes@csus.edu)
2. PHIL Chair (rdisilv@csus.edu)
3. ALS College Committee Chair (abuckman@csus.edu)
4. ALS Dean (rfisher@csus.edu)
5. Academic Services (catalog@csus.edu)
6. Senate Curriculum Subcommittee Chair (curriculum@csus.edu)
7. Dean of Undergraduate (james.german@csus.edu; celena.showers@csus.edu)
8. Dean of Graduate (cnewsome@skymail.csus.edu)
9. Catalog Editor (torsetj@csus.edu)
10. Registrar's Office (w lindsey@csus.edu)
11. PeopleSoft (PeopleSoft@csus.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Tue, 15 Jun 2021 18:04:26 GMT  
G. Mayes (grandolphmayes): Approved for PHIL Committee Chair
2. Thu, 19 Aug 2021 00:08:22 GMT  
Russell DiSilvestro (rdisilv): Approved for PHIL Chair
3. Thu, 07 Oct 2021 18:31:50 GMT  
Alyson Buckman (abuckman): Rollback to Initiator
4. Mon, 06 Dec 2021 22:25:41 GMT  
G. Mayes (grandolphmayes): Approved for PHIL Committee Chair
5. Wed, 22 Dec 2021 00:10:46 GMT  
Russell DiSilvestro (rdisilv): Approved for PHIL Chair
6. Wed, 19 Jan 2022 22:49:46 GMT  
Alyson Buckman (abuckman): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
7. Tue, 25 Jan 2022 18:46:28 GMT  
Robin Fisher (rfisher): Approved for ALS Dean

## New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: Thu, 02 Dec 2021 16:41:31 GMT

**Viewing: PHIL 156 : Philosophy of the Social Sciences**

**Last edit: Thu, 02 Dec 2021 16:41:30 GMT**

Changes proposed by: G. Mayes (101041144)

**Contact(s):**

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Gregory Mayes	mayesgr@csus.edu	916-278-6424

**Catalog Title:**

Philosophy of the Social Sciences

**Class Schedule Title:**

Philosophy of Social Science

**Academic Group: (College)**

ALS - Arts & Letters

**Academic Organization: (Department)**

Philosophy

**Will this course be offered through the College of Continuing Education (CCE)?**

No

**Catalog Year Effective:**

Fall 2022 (2022/2023 Catalog)

**Subject Area: (prefix)**

PHIL - Philosophy

**Catalog Number: (course number)**

156

**Course ID: (For administrative use only.)**

TBD

**Units:**

3

**Is the primary purpose of this change to update the term typically offered or the enforcement of requisites at registration?**

No

**In what term(s) will this course typically be offered?**

Fall, Spring

**Does this course require a room for its final exam?**

Yes, final exam requires a room

**Does this course replace an existing experimental course?**

No

**This course complies with the credit hour policy:**

Yes

**Justification for course proposal:**

Philosophy of Social Science is a new course that will satisfy core elective requirements in all 3 of the Philosophy Department's concentrations, as redefined in concurrently submitted proposals. The program change is the result of the Department's attempt to respond constructively to suggestions made in the most recent program review, to rationalize course requirements across the concentrations and to infuse the existing Logic and Philosophy of Science concentration (renamed Science, Reason and Values) with a values component which creates greater coherence with the Department's identity as the primary locus of Ethics instruction at Sacramento State. (Note: The term "Core Elective" has been applied to the reformulation of all concentrations for uniformity, but the core electives in the revised Logic and Philosophy of Science program (Renamed Science, Reason and Values) are in fact required. Hence, this course is identified as required for the SRV concentration below.)

**Course Description: (Not to exceed 80 words and language should conform to catalog copy.)**

An examination of concepts and problems arising in the philosophical study of the social sciences, including issues pertaining to ontology, epistemology, methodology, values & objectivity, scientific models, and explanation. Some questions explored are: What are social phenomena and social categories? What makes social science different from natural science? How do values influence the practice of social science? What kinds of mathematical and computational models are used in social science? How does social science explain social phenomena?

**Are one or more field trips required with this course?**

No

**Fee Course?**

No

**Is this course designated as Service Learning?**

No

**Does this course require safety training?**

No

**Does this course require personal protective equipment (PPE)?**

No

**Does this course have prerequisites?**

No

**Does this course have corequisites?**

No

**Graded:**

Letter

**Approval required for enrollment?**

No Approval Required

**Course Component(s) and Classification(s):**

Lecture

**Lecture Classification**

CS#02 - Lecture/Discussion (K-factor=1WTU per unit)

**Lecture Units**

3

**Is this a paired course?**

No

**Is this course crosslisted?**

No

**Can this course be repeated for credit?**

No

**Can the course be taken for credit more than once during the same term?**

No

**Description of the Expected Learning Outcomes: Describe outcomes using the following format: "Students will be able to: 1), 2), etc."**

Students will be able to:

1. Identify and understand common theories and terms in the philosophy of social science.
2. Apply critical thinking skills to problems and theories concerning the nature of social science and its relation to natural science.
3. Distinguish various philosophical concepts and theories and their consequences for the nature of social science.
4. Implement serious critical discussion and inquiry about contemporary issues in philosophy of social science.
5. Execute a clear philosophical analysis.

**Attach a list of the required/recommended course readings and activities:**

Philosophy of the Social Sciences readings.pdf

Syllabus Philosophy of the Social Sciences.pdf

**Assessment Strategies: A description of the assessment strategies (e.g., portfolios, examinations, performances, pre-and post-tests, conferences with students, student papers) which will be used by the instructor to determine the extent to which students have achieved the learning outcomes noted above.**

Assessment strategies will

1. Include bi-weekly quizzes (1,3)
2. 1 in-class midterm exam, 1 in-class final exam and (1-4)
3. 2 1500 word analytical essays. (1-5)

**For whom is this course being developed?**

Majors in the Dept

**Is this course required in a degree program (major, minor, graduate degree, certificate?)**

Yes

**Has a corresponding Program Change been submitted to Workflow?**

Yes

**Identify the program(s) in which this course is required:****Programs:**

BA in Philosophy (Science, Reason and Values)

**Does the proposed change or addition cause a significant increase in the use of College or University resources (lab room, computer)?**

No

**Will there be any departments affected by this proposed course?**

No

**I/we as the author(s) of this course proposal agree to provide a new or updated accessibility checklist to the Dean's office prior to the semester when this course is taught utilizing the changes proposed here.**

I/we agree

## **University Learning Goals**

### **Undergraduate Learning Goals:**

Competence in the disciplines  
Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world  
Integrative learning  
Intellectual and practical skills

**Is this course required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?**

No

## **GE Course and GE Goal(s)**

**Is this a General Education (GE) course or is it being considered for GE?**

No

**Please attach any additional files not requested above:**

Clarification.docx  
Clarification.pdf

### **Reviewer Comments:**

**Ian Harvey (iharvey) (Thu, 07 Oct 2021 17:40:03 GMT):** Dear Gregory Mayes, This is Ian Harvey on behalf of the ALS Curriculum Committee. Your course proposal has been approved pending the following revisions: PHIL 156: Philosophy of the Social Sciences Expected Learning Outcomes need to be distinguished from one another and simplified with one action verb to suggest a sequence of learning at an advanced undergraduate level. Bloom's Taxonomy is a useful resource in this respect. For example: Students will be able to: 1) Summarize the concepts behind the most important debates in current philosophy of science 2) Analyze the various positions . . . 3) Criticize contemporary professional articles in extended written essays. And etc. Assessment strategies need to be linked to the ELO's with appropriate numbers. For example: Bi-weekly quizzes (1, 2) Mid-term exam (2) Final exam (1, 2, 3) 2 1500-word analytic essays (3) Be sure to attach a complete syllabus for the course including all of the content requested by the College of Arts & Letters.

**Alyson Buckman (abuckman) (Thu, 07 Oct 2021 18:31:51 GMT):** Rollback: Dear Randy, please see requested edits submitted by Ian Harvey on behalf of the Committee. A useful resource, including Bloom's Taxonomy, is: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/internal/curriculum-resources.html>. Please send me an email when you have updated the proposal so that we can move it on in the process. Be sure to get all revisions in ASAP; please do not wait for them all to be completed. These should be in at the very latest by 10/20. Let me know if you have any questions.

Key: 14512