

Philosophy Department Annual Report 2009-2010

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
California State University, East Bay
Approved by the Department Faculty, May 10, 2010

1. Brief Self-Study

A. Goals

The Philosophy Department has accomplished the following goals stated in its 08-09 Annual Report. We have revised the Philosophy Major (subject to approval by the Academic Senate) and have continued our success in the areas of increasing the numbers of majors, increasing FTEs relative to our allocation, student activities, and curricular innovation. Due to the uncertainty of our future allocation, we have decided to put the revising the Religious Studies option, re-creating the Religious Studies minor, and creating a new course prefix for the Religious Studies courses on hold for now. However, we remain committed to growing the presence of Religious Studies on campus, and have submitted a request to change the name of the Department to “The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies”. We would still very much like to hire new tenure track faculty members in the areas of Philosophy of Science and in the History of Philosophy as soon as possible. The following reflects the Philosophy Department’s accomplishments during the 09-10 AY:

- The number of Philosophy majors has increased from 42 to approximately 50; and we remain at an approximate count of 10 minors.
- The Philosophy Departments FTEs have steadily increased in each quarter when compared to 07-08 (relative to allocation, see notes below table):

FTEs	07-08	08-09	09-10
Summer	79.70	85.87	65.6 ^a
Fall	168.80	174.93	212.8
Winter	181.6	187.47	161.6 ^b
Spring	192.00	212.80	156.8 ^c

^a Summer 2009 course offerings were cut from 11 course offerings in Summer 08 to 8 in anticipation of the budget cuts.

^b Winter 2010 course offerings were cut from 25 in Winter 2009 to 18 in Winter 2010.

^c Spring 2010 course offerings were cut from 29 in Spring 2009 to 15 in Spring 2010.

- The Philosophy Department continues its participation in five Freshman Clusters.
- The Department has successfully created two new courses this year, PHIL 3404 *Mysticism* and PHIL 3432 *Monsters, Religion, and Horror*.
- Philosophy students and faculty have sustained the energy and enthusiasm for our student club, the Philosophy Society. We have sustained a pace of 3-5 meetings per quarter. These meetings have averaged about 20 people in attendance for each meeting. I think that we can make a case for being among the most successful academic clubs on campus.
- This Spring, we will publish a new edition of our on-line student journal, *Reflections*, showcasing our students’ work. Students and faculty are currently working on this edition.
- This Spring, the department will award the second annual Prestigious Bassen Prize, an essay contest with an small scholarship awarded to the first and second place winners.

B: The Effects of the Budget Cuts on the Philosophy Department:

Philosophy usually offers about 70%-75% of their courses with lecturer faculty. This is due to attrition in tenure track faculty through retirements and separations over the past 8 years. If lecturers are cut, departments like ours that are the most heavily reliant on lecturers are being cut the most, though we do the most service to GE and Freshman clusters.

In Spring 2009, we offered 29 courses:

- 10 of these were A3 Critical Thinking courses required by all native students
- 7 sections were freshman clusters

- 3 sections of the popular C4/ Cultural Groups and Women upper division course PHIL 3510, *Human Rights and Social Justice* [Winter 2010 is the first quarter that we have not offered this important course in over 10 years.]
- 10 of these courses served both majors and students seeking C4 GE.

In Spring 2010, we only offered 14 courses:

- 2 of these are A3 Critical Thinking courses (and had mammoth waitlists).
- 5 are freshman cluster sections (Two cluster courses were canceled due to the budget shortfall. Three of these five remaining cluster courses now have caps of 45 instead of 30).
- PHIL 3510 *Human Rights and Social Justice* will not be offered.
- Only 5 courses were available for majors, minors, and students seeking C4 GE courses.
- One course was taught *pro bono* by the department chair.

The Philosophy Department has lost 3 high quality lecturers this year due to the budget shortfall, Jürgen Braungardt (3 year entitled), Vida Pavesich (1 year entitled) and Craig Derksen (1 year entitled). Drs. Braungardt and Pavesich were forced into premature retirement. We lost work for Dr. Derksen in Spring 2010. As a result, he lost his H1B Visa status and had to leave the country.

We have no staff member in our department office as of Winter 2010. This has significantly increased the workload of the chair and the shared staff member in the History Department. Our summer courses (7 planned in total) will be exclusively through the hybrid self-support model, requiring an addition \$240 fee per 4 unit course.

In Fall 2010, if we are left with only regular faculty all teaching their full load, we would offer only 11 courses total. This will not be sufficient to support our central role in offering A3 Critical Thinking courses, our service to five freshman clusters, and our service to other programs, such as Environmental Studies, Science Education, and Business, much less serve the Philosophy major.

Our goals for AY 10-11 consist of many of the same goals as 09-10, since some of our projects were put on hold to the uncertainty of the budget. However, as the picture becomes clearer, we will continue work on the following goals:

- Continuing our success in the areas of increasing the numbers of majors, increasing FTEs, student activities, and curricular innovation.
- Re-creating the Religious Studies minor and major option.
- Creating a new course prefix for the Religious Studies courses.
- Hiring new tenure track faculty members in the areas of Philosophy of Science and in the History of Philosophy as soon as possible.

2. Assessment

Due to the budget cuts, furloughs, and the loss of our department staff member this year, we have not done any assessment activities to date in AY 09-10. We plan to do a survey of Philosophy majors to take their pulse about how they are faring in the program, what's working and what they need from the faculty. We would also like to continue our contact with alumni and to track our graduates' successes. We have begun doing this as a result of alumni survey, and we have featured some of our alumni on our department website under "Alumni Profiles": http://class.csueastbay.edu/philosophy/Alumni_Profiles.php.

Our major options have been reshuffled and we have not been able to offer even all the required courses in each option, including the Capstone course, where we would ordinarily do the outgoing assessment of the program.

Next year we will be revising our Program Assessment Plan to fit the new major.

3. Statistics from Institutional Research for 2003-2008

California State University, East Bay

APR Summary Data

Fall 2004 - 2009⁸

Philosophy					
	Fall Quarter				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
A. Students					
1. Undergraduate	19	23	29	35	37
2. Graduate	1	1	1	0	3
3. Total Number of Majors	20	24	30	35	40
4. FTES Generated	184.0	180.3	204.0	165.2	173.3
	College Years				
B. Degrees Awarded	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08
1. Undergraduate	4	8	7	6	10
2. Graduate	0	0	0	0	0
3. Total	4	8	7	6	10
	Fall Quarter				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
C. Faculty					
Tenured/Track Headcount					
1. Full-Time	4	4	4	3	4
2. Part-Time	0	0	0	0	0
3. Total Tenure Track	4	4	4	3	4
Lecturer Headcount					
4. Full-Time	2	0	0	0	0
5. Part-Time	2	8	8	7	6
6. Total Non-Tenure Track	4	8	8	7	6
7. Grand Total All Faculty	8	12	12	10	10
Instructional FTE Faculty					
8. Tenured/Track	3.3	2.7	3.0	1.0	3.4
9. Lecturer	3.3	4.9	5.7	6.0	3.5
10. Total Instructional FTEF	6.6	7.6	8.7	7.0	6.8
Lecturer Teaching					
11. % Lecturer/Total Instructional FTEF	50.6%	64.8%	65.6%	85.7%	50.8%
12. FTES Taught by Lecturer	112.5	142.9	158.4	133.6	112.3
13. % FTES Lecture/FTES Generated	61.2%	79.3%	77.6%	80.9%	64.8%
D. Student Faculty Ratios					
1. Tenured/Track	22.0	14.0	15.2	31.6	18.1
2. Lecturer	33.8	29.0	27.7	22.3	32.4
3. SFR By Level (All Faculty)	28.0	23.7	23.4	23.6	25.4
4. Lower Division	34.6	28.5	29.0	28.7	33.6
5. Upper Division	24.3	20.9	20.1	20.8	20.7
6. Graduate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
7. Number of Sections Offered	25	25	29	24	25
8. Average Section Size	30	28	27	27	26

Source and definitions available at:

<http://www.csueastbay.edu/ira/apr/summary/definitions.pdf>

Philosophy Majors by Ethnicity, 2004-2008
(Data provided by IRA)

		Fall 2004											
		Degree Level									Total		
		Bachelor			PostBaccalaureate			Master					
		GENDER		All	GENDER		All	GENDER		All	GENDER		All
		F	M		F	M		F	M		F	M	
Philosophy	Black		1	1							1	1	
	Asian / Pacific	1	8	9						1	8	9	
	Hispanic												
	White	2	3	5						2	3	5	
	American Indian	1		1						1		1	
	Other		3	3		1	1				4	4	
	International												
	All	4	15	19		1	1			4	16	20	

		Fall 2005											
		Degree Level									Total		
		Bachelor			PostBaccalaureate			Master					
		GENDER		All	GENDER		All	GENDER		All	GENDER		All
		F	M		F	M		F	M		F	M	
	Black		1		1						1		1
	Asian / Pacific		1	6	7						1	6	7
	Hispanic												
	White			11	11							11	11
	American Indian												
	Other			4	4		1	1				5	5
	International												
	All		2	21	23		1	1			2	22	24

		Fall 2006											
		Degree Level									Total		
		Bachelor			PostBaccalaureate			Master					
		GENDER		All	GENDER		All	GENDER		All	GENDER		All
		F	M		F	M		F	M		F	M	
	Black		1	2	3	1		1			2	2	4
	Asian / Pacific			3	3							3	3
	Hispanic			1	1							1	1
	White		1	14	15						1	14	15
	American Indian												
	Other		1	5	6						1	5	6
	International		1		1						1		1
	All		4	25	29	1		1			5	25	30

Fall 2007									
	Bachelor			PostBaccalaureate			Total		
	GENDER		All	GENDER		All	GENDER		All
	F	M		F	M		F	M	
Black	1	1	2				1	1	2
Asian / Pacific	1	2	3				1	2	3
Hispanic		1	1					1	1
White	2	13	15				2	13	15
American Indian									
Other	4	9	13				4	9	13
International	1		1				1		1
All	9	26	35				9	26	35

Fall 2008									
	Bachelor			PostBaccalaureate			Total		
	GENDER		All	GENDER		All	GENDER		All
	F	M		F	M		F	M	
Black	3	3	6				3	3	6
Asian / Pacific	3	5	8				3	5	8
Hispanic		2	2					2	2
White	2	8	10	1		1	3	8	11
American Indian									
Other	8	3	11	1	1	2	9	4	13
International									
All	16	21	37	2	1	3	18	22	40