

PHILOSOPHY



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Philosophical investigation and reflection remind us of the ongoing struggle for human beings to balance their most important life commitments. As individuals and members of society, we face the expectation from ourselves and each other to live our best life possible. Becoming critical, creative and conscientious beings in the world is one way of balancing the demands of our also being citizen, consumer and working professionals in today's world.

Studying philosophy at the university level is a time-tested path for helping us balance these pressures. Selecting and preparing for professional careers happens at the same time that students learn to appreciate the value of a life well spent outside of work while at the university. Philosophy helps us think through these experiences and relations. Philosophy is an ideal second major, and our multiple minor and certificate programs are excellent complements to any degree or program of study offered on our campus.

DEGREE PROGRAM

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN PHILOSOPHY

The B.A. in philosophy includes a foundation including Logic, Ancient Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Philosophical Classics and a senior capstone. Other elective areas of study include Asian Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Religion, Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy, and many others.

FAST FACTS

Nationwide, philosophy majors achieve top scores on graduate school entrance exams such as the LSAT, GRE and GMAT. Philosophy majors tend to outperform all other majors on the verbal and analytical reasoning sections of the GRE.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Philosophical Society – The Philosophical Society provides students with the opportunity to interact and socialize with other students interested in philosophy. The club organizes informal meetings, guest speakers, an annual Student Philosophy Symposium and trips to philosophy conferences and other cocurricular activities.

WHO HAS STUDIED PHILOSOPHY?

Excellent question. Here are some names you may recognize. Malala Yousafzai, education activist; Emmanuel Macron, president of France; George Will, political commentator and author; Cornel West, activist and public intellectual; Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court Justice and civil rights attorney; Katy Tur, journalist; Steve Martin, actor and comedian; Martin Luther King Jr., minister and civil rights leader; Bruce Lee, martial artist, actor and director; the Lucas Brothers (Keith and Kenny), comedians and screenwriters; Neil Peart, drummer for rock band RUSH; Mary Higgins Clark, mystery writer; Susan Sarandon, actor; Chris Hayes, journalist and political commentator; and Phil Jackson, former NBA coach.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Robert Poe '17
Major: Philosophy

Robert's MU degree took him to Italy.

Robert joined Legality Attentive Data Scientists (LeADS) in November 2021 as an Early-Stage Researcher and will be researching whether and how neuromarketing can affect the human rights of individuals. In conjunction with his responsibilities to LeADS, Robert is enrolled in the National Doctorate in Artificial Intelligence and is a researcher at the LIDER Laboratory, Scuola Superiore Saint'Anna in Pisa, Italy. Robert hopes his research will (1) lead to policy action and (2) contribute to the eventual expansion in scope of fundamental rights to encompass cognitive rights.





MINORS

ETHICS AND SOCIETY MINOR (18 CREDITS)

The purpose of the program is to support students' professional development in a number of fields by supplementing their disciplinary and technical training by helping them advance their moral reasoning skills. In today's rapidly changing social and technological circumstances, there is an increased need for citizens and professionals to better understand the principles and applications of ethics, and to be able to critically analyze the implications of these rapid developments.

While some technical or professional programs may include some content on the recognized ethical standards in a specific career field, courses in the Ethics and Society program will do a great deal more. They will provide students with the opportunity to engage in critical study of the philosophical underpinnings of various ethical theories and the application of those principles to a range of contexts. The curriculum for the minor includes, along with a general introductory course, classes in Biomedical Ethics, Business and Professional Ethics, Environmental Philosophy/Ethics, Food Ethics, Global Ethics and Social Justice, and others. Through such courses, students will develop expertise and skills in critical ethical reasoning in application to diverse contexts.

PHILOSOPHY MINOR (18 CREDITS)

We offer a wide range of courses allowing for the exploration of the many facets of philosophy. Some emphasize the history of philosophy in the Western tradition (e.g., Ancient (Greek) Philosophy and Modern Philosophy). Others emphasize non-Western traditions (e.g., Asian Philosophy and Native American Philosophy). Many emphasize the integration of philosophy with other disciplines (e.g., Art & Aesthetics; Philosophy of Science; Philosophical Psychology; Philosophy and Neuroscience). Many students combine philosophy with a second major in disciplines such as anthropology, biology, English, history, linguistics (a major option within English), mathematics, physics, psychology and sociology.

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

ETHICS AND SOCIETY (15 CREDITS)

The purpose of the program is to provide students and community professionals in a number of fields with the opportunity to supplement their disciplinary and technical training by advancing their moral reasoning skills. In today's rapidly changing social and technological circumstances, there is an increased need for citizens and professionals to better understand the principles and applications of ethics, and to be able to critically analyze the implications of these rapid developments.

Students who complete either the Ethics and Society minor or certificate program will acquire:

- A clear understanding of a range of philosophical approaches to questions about moral principles and ethical judgments.
- The ability to apply fundamental concepts and principles to specific professional and social contexts.
- The ability to articulate moral principles and theories as well as applications of them verbally and in writing.
- The ability to engage in critical evaluation of actual or proposed practices in various professional and social contexts.
- The ability to effectively communicate and collaborate on controversial matters with people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Want a Good Job? Major in Philosophy.

- Philosophy prepares graduates for a wide array of jobs, the kind that can lead to more skilled mid-level positions later on.
- The humanities, and particularly philosophy, prepare students to engage meaningfully with the ambiguities of life outside the classroom.
(Text from article written by Kristina Grob, 8/6/20, America Magazine.)

FACULTY



Dr. Jennifer Miller
Assistant Professor and
Department Chair



Dr. John Kaiser Ortiz
Associate Professor



Dr. Chuck Ward
Professor

Each of our full-time faculty members has a doctorate. They are engaged in research, scholarship and climbing new heights and are committed to bringing their expertise to the classroom.