

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

philosophy.osu.edu

Philosophy literally translated means “love of wisdom,” but the discipline involves so much more. Philosophy addresses the fundamental problems of existence, values, mind and language. It is a catalyst for innovation and a demonstration of the power of human reasoning. Studying philosophy helps you think critically and creatively, and is the foundational basis for any number of rewarding careers.



Dana Howard teaching an undergraduate philosophy class

DISCOVER OUR COMMUNITY

The **UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY CLUB** meets throughout the year and sponsors talks by undergraduates, graduate students and faculty.

MAP (Minorities and Philosophy) is an inclusive group that provides students and faculty with the opportunity to discuss topics concerning minorities within philosophy.

CAREERS IN PHILOSOPHY

The study of Philosophy develops a number of versatile, in-demand skills, including lateral thinking, creative problem-solving, analytical reasoning and the ability to read, write and express ideas and arguments clearly. Described in *The Atlantic* as “the most practical major,” the majority of our philosophy majors go on to careers outside of academia in a number of diverse fields.

- Law
- Business
- Nonprofit work
- Public Relations
- Marketing
- Health Professions
- Computer Science
- Public policy
- Writing & Journalism
- Education

DEGREE PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE

BA, Philosophy
BA, Philosophy, Politics and Economics

GRADUATE

PhD, Philosophy

FEATURED COURSES

PHILOS 1100: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Explore the nature of reality, morality and free will, God's existence, and some of life's other big questions.

PHILOS 1500: INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

Learn how to construct strong arguments and how to identify various kinds of fallacies in reasoning.

PHILOS 2120: ASIAN PHILOSOPHIES

Examine at least three of the great philosophical traditions of Asia:
Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, Taoism and Confucianism.

PHILOS 2340: FUTURE OF HUMANITY

This course addresses how technology and other large scale changes are affecting the future of humanity. Should we use technology to enhance ourselves? Why we should act for the sake of future people at all?

PHILOS 2342: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

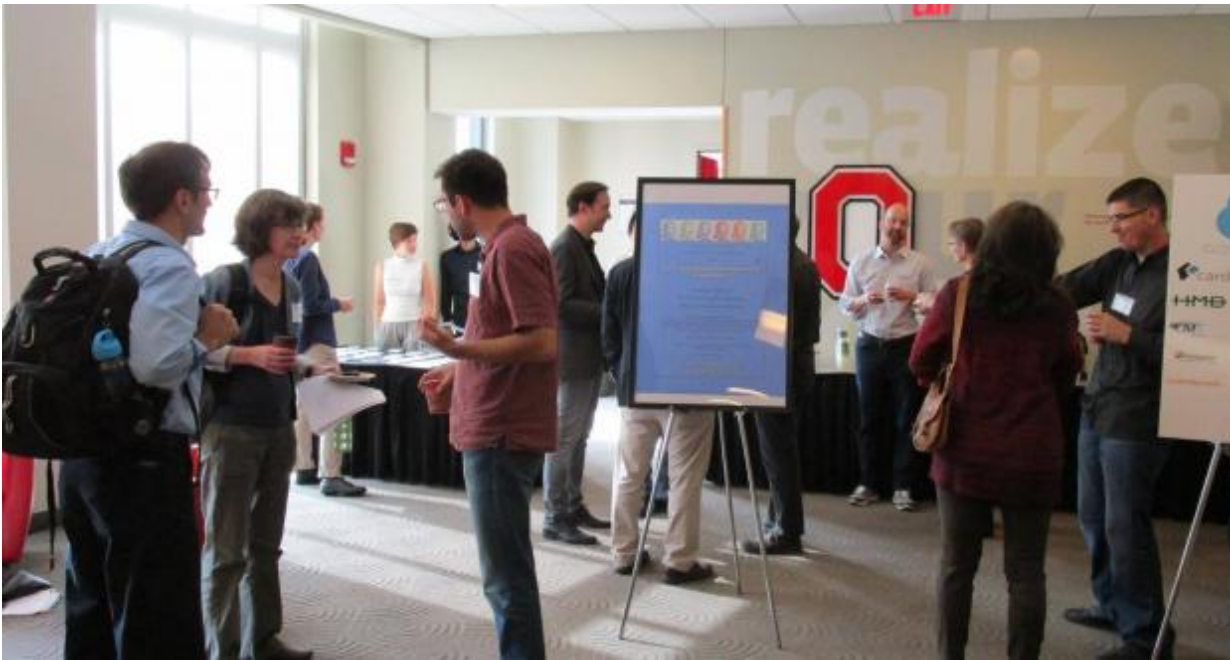
How should humans engage the world around them? The treatment of non-human animals, the problem of climate change, and the ethics of sustainable development all pose important moral challenges.

PHILOS 2465: DEATH & THE MEANING OF LIFE

Explore what makes life meaningful, including the role of the afterlife, the importance of achievement and happiness, and the question of immortality.

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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



Philosophers gather at an Ohio State University conference on the philosophy of G. W. Leibniz.

WHY SUPPORT PHILOSOPHY?

Philosophy teaches students how clear and careful thinking can illuminate all sorts of questions, even the most difficult ones. It develops critical capacities for students across the University. Support for the department can help fund student or faculty research, bring leading philosophers to campus to stimulate and interact with our community, sponsor a conference on an important topic of contemporary debate or fund scholarships for low income high school students to attend the Philosophy and Critical Thinking Summer Camp at Ohio State.

WORDS FROM PHILOSOPHY MAJORS

“Being a philosopher has made me able to read scientific papers with a more critical eye, and to raise questions in presentations of research that others may not have thought of, particularly about the scientists’ own biases or assumptions that were made during the generation of the original hypothesis. A STEM major can teach you about a science, but a philosophy degree can teach you how to be a scientist.” —**Amanda Kaczmarek** (BA SP14), graduate student in UC Santa Barbara’s Department of Brain and Psychological Sciences

“Though terms like ‘critical thinking’ and ‘close reading’ get thrown around frequently within other departments, I don’t think any other major challenges students to think, question and communicate as deeply or as clearly as Philosophy. Without question, my analytical abilities and writing improved substantially while in the program.” —**Ben McDonough** (BA SP17), 2d Lt in the USAF training to be an Air Battle Manager

“Philosophy has benefited me in many ways. The Department really teaches you how to think rather than what to think, which made an incredible learning experience.” —**David Shankman** (BA SP17), Cloud Applications Consultant, Oracle, Austin, TX

“I am able to express myself clearly, understand difficult concepts, and admit when I am wrong, which can all be traced back to Philosophy in some way or another.” —**Liam Sullivan** (BA SP17), Staff Assistant, National Association of State Workforce Agencies, Washington DC

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
350 UNIVERSITY HALL, 230 N. OVAL MALL
COLUMBUS, OH 43210
(614) 292-7914

Chair: Lisa Downing

DISCOVER ASC