

Philosophy



Department of Humanities

College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

The Discipline

Philosophy uses reason to reflect upon the most basic and profound questions that human beings can ask: Does life have a meaning? Is there a God? What is truth? How should one live one's life?

Philosophy teaches students to think and to write about these and other basic questions in a reasoned and critical fashion. Because philosophy deals with the fundamental issues that underlie all of our investigations into nature and ourselves, the study of philosophy serves students who are interested in the foundations of the sciences, arts, and social institutions.

The study of philosophy is an excellent preparation for graduate and professional school. Philosophy concentrators have been extremely successful in being admitted to schools of law and medicine.

The Program

General Information

Degree-seeking students are required to fulfill the required courses in effect at the time admitted or readmitted to the program. Since these are subject to change, students should see an advisor for current requirements.

Students wishing to *major* in philosophy must complete the following courses:

PHIL 100	Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 233 or PHIL 234/350	Critical Thinking or Symbolic Logic
PHIL 240	Ethics
PHIL 301	Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 302	Modern Philosophy

Although all philosophy majors must complete the above courses, additional requirements depend upon the student's choice of a traditional program (Alternative I) or a program that emphasizes the relationship between philosophy and other areas of study (Alternative II).

A minor in philosophy requires four upper-division philosophy courses. A double major (philosophy plus another area) is also possible; contact a philosophy program advisor for information.

The Philosophy Club

The Philosophy Club exists to promote philosophical dialogue. Meetings are arranged by students who choose philosophical topics to be discussed in informal and lively exchanges. Philosophy Club events have also included films, plays, and informal social gatherings. Students new to philosophy are especially encouraged to participate and offer ideas for topics and events to any member of the faculty.

The Faculty

The philosophy faculty are dedicated to both teaching and research. They are available both for informal discussion and to counsel students about specific academic programs and general career planning.

Elias Baumgarten, Ph.D., Ethical Theory; Medical Ethics; Ethics of War, Peace and Nationalism; Ethics and Social Policy

Paul Hughes, Ph.D., Ethics; Social and Political Philosophy; Marxism; Philosophy of Law; Feminism

Maureen Linker, Ph.D., Epistemology; Logic; Feminist Philosophy; Metaphysics

Daniel Little, Ph.D., Philosophy of Social Science, Rational Choice Theory, Philosophy of Science

Kathleen V. Wider, Ph.D., Philosophy of Mind; History of Philosophy; Existentialism; Aesthetics

For More Information

To request an application or obtain more information about admission to the University:

Office of Admissions and Orientation
University of Michigan-Dearborn
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313-593-5100
admissions@umd.umich.edu
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