



"Philosophy has become invaluable to my pursuit of other disciplines, particularly my other major — economics & finance. Familiarity with constructing arguments about concepts as abstract as metaphysics and epistemology translates to studies

as worldly as investment theory. Understanding the reasoning behind ethical principles has allowed me richer interpretations of political economic theories."

AUSTIN GLANG

Centre Class of 2018

Double Major: Philosophy and Economics & Finance

THE MISSION OF THE PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM IS TO HELP STUDENTS ACQUIRE A REFLECTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE THESES AND THEORIES THAT THEY ENCOUNTER, LEARN THE HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHT, DEVELOP THEIR OWN VIEWS ON PERENNIAL PHILOSOPHICAL TOPICS, AND PROCURE THE TOOLS THAT THEY NEED TO EXPRESS THOSE VIEWS. THE PROGRAM AIMS TO PRODUCE ANALYTICAL THINKERS, WRITERS, AND SPEAKERS WHO REFLECT ON THEIR VALUE SYSTEMS AND BECOME MORE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE, WELL-PREPARED FOR THE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGES THAT THEY ENCOUNTER AFTER GRADUATION.

THE STUDY OF PHILOSOPHY PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH SKILLS THAT WILL SERVE THEM WELL AT CENTRE AND BEYOND. THINKING CLEARLY, WRITING WELL, AND BEING ABLE TO EXPLAIN COMPLEX IDEAS IN ACCESSIBLE WAYS ARE IMPORTANT FOR A VARIETY OF CAREERS. A COMPLEMENTARY GOAL OF PHILOSOPHY IS THE CULTIVATION OF A CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD ONE'S OWN BELIEFS AND VALUES. BEING ABLE TO CALL OUR OWN BELIEFS AND VALUES INTO QUESTION IS ESSENTIAL TO DEEPENING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD AND TO GETTING ALONG WITH OTHERS.

WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY?

Western philosophy as we now know it began with the ancient Greeks. For the Greeks, the activity of philosophy involved critical, disciplined inquiry into basic questions of human conduct and knowledge such as: How should we live? What is happiness? How does knowledge differ from mere opinion? Do we have free will or are we compelled to make the "choices" we do? Who counts as a person and why? What is justice? Is the world really as it appears to the senses? What is beauty? Philosophers continue to try to answer such questions today because they remain important and are raised but not answered by specialized disciplines in the sciences and humanities. We can better study these questions by learning how they were approached in the past and how the questions have been understood in different cultures and time periods. So, in addition to reading the work of contemporary philosophers, every philosophy major and minor studies texts from different historical periods, from ancient Greece to the 20th-century.

Because the academic study of philosophy focuses on the development of students' capacity to think clearly and critically, a philosophy degree is excellent preparation for many careers. For instance, our philosophy students have gone on to careers in law, medicine, veterinary services, software development, information technology, banking and financial services, youth counseling, sales, management, education, risk management, marketing research, the armed forces, professional sports, college sports, culinary arts, environmental science, public administration, and entrepreneurship. Our program also provides a solid foundation for graduate work in philosophy. Finally, because philosophy addresses so many questions that

overlap with other disciplines, a major or minor in philosophy naturally pairs with a major or minor in multiple other programs.

Other questions raised by contemporary philosophers include: What is language? What is the relationship between language and thought? What is truth? Is all reality physical? What is race? What is gender? Are race and gender objective? What responsibilities do we have toward other human beings? Do other animals have rights, and what are our responsibilities toward them? Can computers think? Is free will compatible with the scientific worldview? Is it possible to be morally good and yet live an unfulfilled life? Is it permissible to kill? Can we justify claims about what is morally right or wrong without appeal to divine authority?

THE PHILOSOPHY FACULTY

VANESSA BENTLEY (B.A., Hiram College; Ph.D., University of Cincinnati), Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy. Bentley's research interests include philosophy of science, feminist epistemology, philosophy of neuroscience, and neuroethics. Currently, she is working on translating feminist theory to scientific practice in the field of cognitive neuroscience by focusing on the neuroimaging of sex/gender differences. Bentley has presented portions of her research at the Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice, the International Neuroethics Society, and the Cognitive Neuroscience Society.

EVA M. CADAVID (B.A., B.S., Florida International University; Ph.D., University of Rochester), Associate Professor of Philosophy. Teaches ancient Greek philosophy and topics in analytic philosophy. Research interests include ancient Greek philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, and inclusivity in philosophy.

W. DAVID HALL (B.A., California State University-Sacramento; M.Div., Ph.D., University of Chicago), W. George Matton Professor of Religion and Philosophy. Hall's primary research interest is 19th- and 20th-century European thought. He is author of *Paul Ricoeur and the Poetic Imperative* (SUNY, 2007). His approach is broadly interdisciplinary, addressing currents within philosophy, psychology, literary theory, psychology, and sociology, and their impact on contemporary theology and ethics. One of his particular interests concerns the manner in which religious texts and discourse function poetically and rhetorically.

ANDREW F. ROCHE (B.A., Amherst College; Ph.D., Harvard University), Associate Professor of Philosophy. His research and teaching interests include Kant's theoretical philosophy, early modern philosophy, and the philosophy of mind. Roche also teaches Logic and 20th-Century Analytic Philosophy, as well as Introduction to Humanities. He has published work in the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *Kantian Review*, and the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*.



AFFILIATED FACULTY

BRETT WERNER (B.A., St. Olaf College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Minnesota), Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies. Werner's research focuses on the science and policy of rivers, sustainable food and farming, and wetlands. His philosophy interests include environmental ethics, American pragmatism, and the philosophy of metaphors and models.

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PHILOSOPHY WEB PAGE

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