Philosophy

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Philosophy asks fundamental questions about human identity, the nature of knowledge and reality, moral virtue and responsibility, the nature of community and political authority, aesthetic judgments and values, and other concepts central to the meaning and value of human existence. Through the study of primary texts and concrete issues, drawn from various historical periods and cultures, philosophy provides a means for reflection on actions, beliefs, and values while developing critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. Philosophy also strengthens the ability to reason, enlarges the imagination, and refines aesthetic sensitivity. A philosophical education thus offers excellent preparation for a broad range of careers that require critical intelligence and creative problem-solving as well as oral and written communication skills.

Offering both graduate (Ph.D. and M.A.) and undergraduate (B.A., B.S. and minors in Philosophy and in Ethics) degrees, the department is home to ongoing dialogues and inquiries across philosophical perspectives and academic disciplines.

Our graduate program produces first-rate scholars and teachers with a strong foundation in the history of philosophy, a well-rounded preparation in the diverse concerns of contemporary philosophy, and the skills to communicate effectively across different traditions and schools of thought.

Our thriving undergraduate program includes a major and minor in Philosophy as well as a minor in Ethics. Throughout our undergraduate curriculum, we encourage our students to become engaged, reflective citizens and lifelong learners while preparing them for careers in government, law, the non-profit sector, business, or higher education.

Faculty

Ramón Alvarado, assistant professor of philosophy (data ethics, philosophy of computation, philosophy of technology). BA, 2011, University of Texas at El Paso; MA, 2014, University of Texas at El Paso; MA, 2017, University of Kansas; PhD, 2019, University of Kansas. (2019)


Jacob P. Neal, assistant professor (History of Philosophy of Science, History of Philosophy of Biology). BA/BS, 2008, Richmond; MA, 2010, Memphis; MS, 2012, Maryland, Baltimore County; PhD, 2021, Pittsburgh. (2023)


Emeriti

William E. Davie, associate professor emeritus. BA, 1964, Washington (Seattle); PhD, 1969, California, Irvine. (1968)


The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.

Participating

Kristen Bell, Knight Law School
Joyce Cheng, history of art and architecture
Jeffrey S. Librett, German and Scandinavian
Lisa Mazzei, education studies
Jerry L. Rosiek, education studies
Steven Shankman, English
Michael Stern, German and Scandinavian
Mark T. Unno, religious studies
Malcolm Wilson, classics

Undergraduate Programs

Major - Bachelor’s Degree

- Philosophy (BA/BS) (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/philosophy/ug-philosophy/)

Minors

- Ethics (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/philosophy/min-ethics/)
- Philosophy (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/philosophy/min-philosophy/)

Graduate Programs

Major - Master’s Degree

- Philosophy (MA) (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/philosophy/ma-philosophy/)

Major - Doctoral Degree

- Philosophy (PhD) (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/philosophy/phd-philosophy/)