

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY



Some of the Greatest Philosophers of all Times!

"Know thyself!" (Socrates)

Philosophy challenges you to question the world in which you find yourself. Philosophy involves questioning our most deeply held views and prejudices. What does it mean to be human? What values do you hold? What values ought you hold? What is beauty? What is the best political system in which to live? What can you know for certain?

Studying philosophy lets you explore and evaluate issues that touch your personal and social life, and thus to examine and assess important ideas that influence politics, morality, natural and social sciences, education, religion, languages, business, and law. Philosophical work also improves critical thinking, nurtures curiosity and offers analytic skills that apply to all disciplines and to your daily life.

The philosophy program offers a general foundation in philosophy and a flexibility that allows students to explore their areas of interest. Philosophy majors have been shown to do better on some of the standard post-graduation tests like the GMAT (Graduate Management Admission test) and the LSAT (Law School Admission Test). In addition, the Ontario College of Teachers recently designated Philosophy a "teachable" subject. So, if you're considering pursuing a career in teaching, you will now be able to apply to one of Ontario's education programs simply with a Philosophy degree!

The Philosophy Programme in French and English is designed, managed, and offered jointly by the Philosophy Departments of [Laurentian University](#) and the [University of Sudbury](#).

WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY?

Ask anyone why they study philosophy - in or out of the university - and you'll get many different answers. After all, these are people who study philosophy you're asking! It's clear that increasing numbers of undergraduates are pursuing Philosophy degrees (from the *New York Times*, 2008), and that there are many different reasons: Some people emphasize the kinds of skills you develop through studying philosophy. Some emphasize the ways a Philosophy major might relate to one's career. Some give a mix of both.

American Philosophical Association's pamphlet "The Philosophy Major" argues that: "The study of philosophy serves to develop intellectual abilities important for life as a whole, beyond the knowledge and skills required for any particular profession. Properly pursued, it enhances analytical, critical and interpretive capacities that are applicable to any subject-matter, and in any human context. It cultivates the capacities and appetite for self-expression and reflection, for exchange and debate of ideas, for life-long learning, and for dealing with problems for which there are no easy answers. It also helps to prepare one for the tasks of citizenship. Participation in political and community affairs today is all too often insufficiently informed, manipulable and vulnerable to demagoguery. A good philosophical education enhances the capacity to participate responsibly and intelligently in public life."

But we like best what some of our graduates have said - email us if you want to add your voice here!:

"The path to a degree in Philosophy can be a life-changing experience. My experience with the Philosophy program at Laurentian University involved an inviting atmosphere with small classes, engaging lectures, discussions, and the freedom to pursue the courses and questions I found most interesting. The program offers an eye-opening experience that helps you teach yourself to think for yourself, how to ask the questions that matter, and how to see ourselves and our world from different perspectives to help develop new answers. It prepares you with the critical thinking skills to tackle any problem rationally – a rare ability that good employers can recognize. The professors keep their doors open, usually know your name, and give you the tools you need to grow and the breathing room to do so. Best of all, when the workload gets heavy, simply take a stroll on any one of the campus nature trails to help clear the mind and let it all sink in."

- Kenneth Paquette, BA 2008

"Philosophy is the uphill climb through a history of important ideas. The ascent is challenging, but the view is spectacular. Professors at Laurentian ignited my enthusiasm and set me off in the right direction. They were always around to give me a hand up."

- Laura Boileau, BA 2007

FACULTY

Full-Time Professors

Dr. Alain Beaulieu (LU) - On sabbatical January-June 2013
Dr. Paolo Biondi (U of S)
Dr. Brett Buchanan (LU)
Dr. Carol Collier (U of S) - Chair
Dr. Gillian Crozier (LU)
Dr. Réal Fillion (U of S) - On sabbatical January-June 2013
Dr. Carolle Gagnon (LU)
Dr. Rachel F.C. Haliburton (U of S)
Dr. Lucien Pelletier (U of S) - On sabbatical 2012-2013
Dr. Alexis Shotwell (LU) - On Leave 2012-2013
Dr. Michael Yeo (LU) - Interim Chair January-June 2013

Professor Emeritus

Dr. Roger Nash (LU)

Sessional Instructors

Dr. Nevio Cristante (LU and U of S)
Adrian Langdon (LU)
Normand Raymond (U of S)

REQUIREMENTS FOR PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMS

Specialization (4y, total 120 cr including 60 cr PHIL)

PHIL 1105 - Introduction à la philosophie **or** PHIL 1115 - Introduction to Philosophy (6 cr)
PHIL 2305 - Origins of Western Philosophy (6 cr)
PHIL 2325 - Reason and Experience in Early Modern Philosophy (6 cr)
PHIL 2505 - Critical Thinking and Argumentation (6 cr)
+ Minimum 12 credits in 3000-series PHIL courses, including 6 credits from:
 PHIL 3407 - Kant (3 cr)
 PHIL 3406 - Hegel (3 cr)
 PHIL 3436 - Nietzsche (3 cr)
 PHIL 3486 - Marx and Marxism (3 cr)
 PHIL 3476 - Existentialism (3 cr)
 PHIL 3496 - Phenomenology (3 cr)
+ minimum 6 cr 4000-series PHIL courses
+ additional PHIL electives (18 cr)

Major (or combined specialization) (4y, total 120 cr including 42 cr PHIL)

PHIL 1105 - Introduction à la philosophie **or** PHIL 1115 - Introduction to Philosophy (6 cr)

+ at least 12 credits from:

PHIL 2305 - Origins of Western Philosophy (6 cr)

PHIL 2325 - Reason and Experience in Early Modern Philosophy (6 cr)

PHIL 2505 - Critical Thinking and Argumentation (6 cr)

+ minimum 12 credits in 3000-series PHIL courses, including 6 credits from:

PHIL 3407 - Kant (3 cr)

PHIL 3406 - Hegel (3 cr)

PHIL 3436 - Nietzsche (3 cr)

PHIL 3486 - Marx and Marxism (3 cr)

PHIL 3476 - Existentialism (3 cr)

PHIL 3496 - Phenomenology (3 cr)

+ minimum 6 credits in 4000-series PHIL courses

+ additional PHIL electives (6 cr)

Concentration (3y, total 90 cr including 36 cr PHIL)

PHIL 1105 - Introduction à la philosophie **or** PHIL 1115 - Introduction to Philosophy (6 cr)

+ at least 12 credits from:

PHIL 2305 - Origins of Western Philosophy (6 cr)

PHIL 2325 - Reason and Experience in Early Modern Philosophy (6 cr)

PHIL 2505 - Critical Thinking and Argumentation (6 cr)

+ Minimum 6 credits PHIL 3000 series

+ PHIL electives (12 cr)

Minor in Philosophy (24 cr.)

PHIL 1115 – Introduction to Philosophy (6 cr)

+ 12 credits from among:

PHIL 2505 – Critical Thinking and Argumentation (6 cr);

PHIL 2305 – Origins of Western Philosophy (6 cr);

PHIL 2325 – Reason and Experience in Early Modern Philosophy (6 cr)

+ 6 credits 3rd or 4th year PHIL

Minor in Ethics (24 cr.)

PHIL 1115 – Introduction to Philosophy (6 cr)

+ 12 credits from among:

PHIL 2217 – Environmental Ethics (3 cr);

PHIL 2525 – Contemporary Moral Issues (6 cr);

PHIL 2345 – Bioethics: Human Life Issues (6 cr);

PHIL 2576 – Philosophy of Law (3 cr);

PHIL 2746 – Communications, Media and Values (3 cr);

PHIL 2747 – Technology, Freedom and Values (3 cr);

PHIL 2876 – Business Ethics (3 cr);

PHIL 3346 – Bioethics Case Studies (3 cr);

PHIL 3545 – Moral Philosophy (6 cr)

COURSE OFFERINGS IN PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1115 EL - Introduction to Philosophy (6cr)
PHIL 2126 EL - Philosophy of Sexuality (3cr)
PHIL 2156 EL - Philosophy, Culture and Power (3cr)
PHIL 2217 EL - Environmental Ethics (3cr)
PHIL 2226 EL - Philosophy of Literatures (3cr)
PHIL 2227 EL - Philosophy of Art (3cr)
PHIL 2256 EL - Philosophy of Education (3cr)
PHIL 2266 EL - Philosophy in the Secondary Schools (3cr)
PHIL 2305 EL - Origins of Western Philosophy (6cr)
PHIL 2325 EL - Reason and Experience in Early Modern Philosophy (6cr)
PHIL 2345 EL - Bioethics: Human Life Issues (6cr)
PHIL 2366 EL - Philosophy of Biology (3cr)
PHIL 2505 EL - Critical Thinking and Argumentation (6cr)
PHIL 2525 EL - Contemporary Moral issues (6cr)
PHIL 2536 EL - Ethical issues in Contemporary Sport (3cr)
PHIL 2576 EL - Philosophy of Law (3cr)
PHIL 2616 EL - Philosophical Anthropology (3cr)
PHIL 2626 EL - Philosophy and the Social Sciences (3cr)
PHIL 2716 EL - Philosophy and Film (3cr)
PHIL 2746 EL - Communications Media and Values (3cr)
PHIL 2747 EL - Technology, Freedom and Values (3cr)
PHIL 2816 EL - Social and Political Philosophy (3cr)
PHIL 2876 EL - Business Ethics (3cr)
PHIL 2916 EL - Philosophy of Science (3cr)
PHIL 3026 EL - Feminist Philosophy (3cr)
PHIL 3217 EL - Philosophy of Nature and the Environment (3cr)
PHIL 3316 EL - Medieval Philosophy (3cr)
PHIL 3346 EL - Bioethics: Case Studies (3cr)
PHIL 3406 EL - Hegel (3cr)
PHIL 3407 EL - Kant (3cr)
PHIL 3436 EL - Nietzsche (3cr)
PHIL 3476 EL - Existentialism (3cr)
PHIL 3486 EL - Marx and Marxism (3cr)
PHIL 3496 EL - Phenomenology (3cr)
PHIL 3497 EL - Hermeneutics (3cr)
PHIL 3545 EL - Moral Philosophy (6cr)
PHIL 3636 EL - Philosophy of Religion (3cr)
PHIL 3656 EL - Philosophy of Language (3cr)
PHIL 3876 EL - Philosophy and Psychology (3cr)
PHIL 3906 EL - Topics in Philosophy I: An Historical Approach (3cr)
PHIL 3907 EL - Topics in Philosophy II: Contemporary Issues in Philosophy (3cr)
PHIL 4006 EL - Honours Seminars I (3cr)
PHIL 4007 EL - Honours Seminars II (3cr)
PHIL 4055 EL - Honours Thesis (6cr)
PHIL 4406 EL - 20th Century Moral, Political, Social & Legal Theory (3cr)
PHIL 4546 EL - Epistemology (3cr)
PHIL 4556 EL - Metaphysics (3cr)
PHIL 4805 EL - Independant Studies (6cr)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Claire Raymond
Secretary, Departement of Philosophy,
(705) 675-1151 ext. 4336 «craymond@laurentian.ca»

Or interim Chairs:

Till Decembre 31, 2012:
Dr. Alain Beaulieu
(705) 675-1151 ext. 4379 «abeaulieu@laurentian.ca»

From January 1, 2013 till June 30, 2013:
Dr. Michael Yeo
(705) 675-1151 ext. 3704 «myeo@laurentian.ca»

USEFUL LINKS

The Ontario College of Teachers has recently declared Philosophy a "teachable" subject. This means that university students with a degree in Philosophy are eligible to apply to one of Ontario's 30 faculties of education. For those who aim for a career in teaching, this is one more reason to become a Philosophy major!

www.oct.ca/additional_qualifications/schedule_a/pdf/philosophy_senior_e.pdf

Canadian Philosophical Association
www.acpcpa.ca/home.htm

Ontario Philosophy Teachers' Association
<http://ontariophilosophy.ca>

Philosophy Now. A Magazine of Ideas
www.philosophynow.org

TPM Online. The Philosopher's Magazine
www.philosophersnet.com

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY PHILOSOPHY ESSAY AWARDS

2012 – 2013

PRIX DES ESSAIS POUR LES ÉTUDIANTS EN PHILOSOPHIE DE L'UNIVERSITÉ LAURENTIENNE

The program of philosophy is again offering its undergraduate Philosophy Essay Awards this year! There are four awards to be given:

Socrates Prize (PHIL 1115)
Prix Diotime (PHIL 1105)
Arendt Prize (upper-year PHIL, English)
Prix Montaigne (upper-year PHIL, French)

Value: \$100 each award

Submission details: Please prepare your paper for 'anonymous review.' To do so, include two documents with your submission: one will be your paper with the title but no name or identification; the other should be a piece of paper with your essay title, name, and contact information. An 'anonymous review' allows the readers to judge the paper on its own merit (i.e., without knowing who wrote it, thereby eliminating some potential bias). Be sure to identify which essay award you are submitting for. To be considered, essays must be a minimum of 5 pages in length (no maximum).

Please submit your documents to Ms. Claire Raymond, L739: craymond@laurentian.ca.

Due date: Monday, April 22, 2013, 3:00 pm

The winners will be contacted and awarded their prizes at a date to be announced towards the end of April 2013.

Eligibility: enrollment in any philosophy (PHIL) course this academic year.

For more information, please contact Dr. Gillian Crozier (gcrozier@laurentian.ca)

Encore cette année, le programme de philosophie offre la chance à ses étudiants et étudiantes de premier cycle de participer au concours d'essai en philosophie! Quatre prix seront offerts:

Prix Socrate (PHIL 1115)
Prix Diotime (PHIL 1105)
Prix Arendt (cours PHIL des niveaux 2000, 3000 ou 4000, anglais)
Prix Montaigne (cours PHIL des niveaux 2000, 3000 ou 4000, français)

Valeur: 100\$ pour chacun des quatre prix

Pour soumettre un texte: Veuillez préparer votre texte pour «évaluation anonyme». Pour ce faire, deux documents sont demandés: un premier sera votre texte et son titre sans indiquer votre nom, et un deuxième sera votre texte et son titre, votre nom et vos coordonnées. Une «évaluation anonyme» permet aux lecteurs d'évaluer le texte pour son mérite propre, c'est-à-dire sans savoir qui l'a écrit (éliminant par le fait même la possibilité d'une évaluation biaisée). Assurez-vous d'identifier (dans le courriel à l'envoi) le nom de l'essai pour lequel vous soumettez votre texte. Pour que votre essai soit admis, il doit avoir une longueur minimale de 5 pages (pas de maximum).

Le tout peut être envoyé par courriel à Claire Raymond, L739: craymond@laurentienne.ca

Date limite: lundi, 22 avril 2013 (à 15 h 00)

Les gagnants et gagnantes seront contacté(e)s et les prix seront remis en avril 2011

Éligibilité: Pour être éligible il faut être inscrit à un cours de philosophie (PHIL) durant l'année académique en cours.

Pour plus d'information, veuillez contacter Prof. Gillian Crozier (gcrozier@laurentian.ca)