PHILOSOPHY

The Department of Philosophy includes a wide range of expertise which allows students accepted into our graduate programs to both extend their philosophical education at the graduate level and to concentrate their research project in a number of areas. These include the history of philosophy, ethics, social and political philosophy, feminist philosophy, epistemology, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and philosophy of science. We offer PhD, MA (thesis) and MA (major research project) programs.

Administrative Staff

Chair
Patricia Sheridan (347 MacKinnon, Ext. 53221)
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Graduate Program Coordinator
Don Dedrick (329 MacKinnon, Ext. 53203)
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Graduate Program Assistant
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Graduate Faculty

This list may include Regular Graduate Faculty, Associated Graduate Faculty and/or Graduate Faculty from other universities.

Andrew Bailey
BA, MA Oxford, PhD Calgary - Associate Professor and Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies), College of Arts
Graduate Faculty

Samantha Brennan
BA Dalhousie, MA, PhD Illinois - Professor and Dean, College of Arts
Graduate Faculty

Donald Dedrick
BA, MA Carleton, PhD Toronto - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Monique Deveaux
BA, MA McGill, MPhil, PhD Cambridge - Professor
Graduate Faculty

Ken Dorter
BA Queen's College (CUNY), MA, PhD Pennsylvania State - Professor Emeritus
Associated Graduate Faculty

Peter Eardley
BA McGill, MA, PhD Toronto - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Karyn L. Freedman
BA, MA Manitoba, PhD Toronto - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Maya Goldenberg
BA Toronto, MA McGill, PhD Michigan State - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

John Hacker-Wright
BA Bradley, MA, PhD New York - Associate Professor

Graduate Faculty

Karen L. Houle
B.Sc., MA, PhD Guelph - Professor
Graduate Faculty

Jay Lampert
BA, MA, PhD, Toronto - Professor Emeritus
Associated Graduate Faculty

Stefan Linquist
BAH Simon Fraser, M.Sc. New York, PhD Duke - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Mark McCullagh
BA Toronto, PhD Pittsburgh - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Jeff Mitscherling
BA UC Santa Barbara, MA McMaster, PhD Guelph - Professor Emeritus
Associated Graduate Faculty

Omid A. Payrow Shabani
BA, MA Carleton, PhD Ottawa - Professor
Graduate Faculty

John Russon
BA Regina, MA, PhD Toronto - Professor
Graduate Faculty

Patricia Sheridan
BA McGill, MA Concordia, PhD Western - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Joshua (Gus) Skorburg
BS Southern Illinois, MA Toledo, PhD Oregon - Assistant Professor
Graduate Faculty

Andrew Wayne
B.Sc. Toronto, MA, PhD UC San Diego - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Karen Wendling
BA Michigan State, MA, PhD Toronto - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

MA Program

The Philosophy Department includes a wide range of expertise which allows students accepted into the MA program to both extend their philosophical background at the graduate level and to concentrate their research project in any of a number of different areas such as the history of philosophy, ethics, social and political philosophy, feminist philosophy, epistemology, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, philosophy of science. It is primarily a research degree and the program will involve either an MA thesis or the smaller Major Research Project.

Admission Requirements

A four-year bachelor’s degree from a recognized university. Normally this will include at least a major in philosophy, although the program is also open to students who may not have had a substantial number of philosophy undergraduate courses but who provide evidence of philosophical ability. In all cases, in order to be considered for admission to the MA program, the department requires that the average grade over the last 10.00 credits of studies (i.e., a normal two years of full-
Collaborative Specializations

International Development Studies

The Department of Philosophy participates in the MA/PhD collaborative specialization in International Development Studies (IDS). Students in this option register in an MA/PhD program in the department and IDS. Those faculty members whose research and teaching expertise includes aspects of international development studies may serve as advisors for MA/PhD students. Please consult the International Development Studies (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/collaborative-specializations/international-development-studies/) listing for a detailed description of the MA/PhD collaborative specialization and the special additional requirements for each of the participating departments.

One Health

The Department of Philosophy participates in the collaborative specialization in One Health. Master’s and Doctoral students wishing to undertake thesis research or their major research project with an emphasis on one health are eligible to apply to register concurrently in Philosophy and the collaborative specialization. Students should consult the One Health (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/collaborative-specializations/one-health/) listing for more information.

Courses

Except where specified, the courses listed may be offered in any semester, subject to student demand and the availability of an instructor.

PHIL*6060 Logic Unspecified [0.50]
A course designed to bring the individual student to the level of competence in logical techniques and theory required for graduate studies.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6120 Philosophy of Mind Unspecified [0.50]
A study of contemporary theories of mind and philosophies of psychology.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6140 Contemporary European Philosophy I Unspecified [0.50]
A study of the historical and contemporary origins of existentialism, phenomenology and post-modernism, concentrating on one or several of the classic texts.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6150 Contemporary European Philosophy II Unspecified [0.50]
A study of the historical and contemporary origins of existentialism, phenomenology and post-modernism, concentrating on texts not covered in PHIL*6140 in the same year.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6200 Problems of Contemporary Philosophy Unspecified [0.50]
A study of a particular set of problems in contemporary philosophy.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6210 Metaphysics Unspecified [0.50]
A critical examination of some selected major works or central problems in metaphysics.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

Program Requirements

Students enrol in one of two study options:

1. course work and major research project (1 year), or
2. thesis (2 years).

Regardless of the stream chosen, the MA in Philosophy at Guelph is a research degree, in which the responsibility for study rests primarily with the student. Students in both streams are expected to develop their own topic for research.

Thesis
- Total of 2 credits in graduate course work required
- At least 3 graduate courses (0.5 credits each) plus the mandatory MA Seminar (0.5 credits)
- Completion and defence of a thesis

Course Work and Major Research Project (MRP)
- Total of 4 credits in graduate course work required.
- 5 graduate courses (0.5 credits each) plus the mandatory MA Seminar (0.5 credits)
- Major Research Project (1.0 credit)

PhD Program

The Department of Philosophy includes a wide range of expertise which allows students accepted into our graduate programs to both extend their philosophical education at the graduate level and to concentrate their research project in a number of areas. These include the history of philosophy, ethics, social and political philosophy, feminist philosophy, epistemology, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and philosophy of science. The aim of the program is to develop philosophers who are well rounded in the traditional areas of study and who have achieved a high level of expertise in their special areas of research.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the program is restricted to those who have an MA in philosophy, or an outstanding record in undergraduate studies in philosophy.

Program Requirements

Students are normally required to take between six and ten courses plus PHIL*6960 PhD Seminar. Students must also demonstrate knowledge in at least five designated fields of study. This may be done by course work, by examination, by thesis or by a suitable combination of these. Students must pass an Oral Qualifying Examination by the end of their fifth semester in the program. Students in the program may be required to demonstrate competence in one or more skills which their advisory committee decides, in consultation with the program officer, is needed for their dissertation (e.g. a language other than English). Submission and defence of an acceptable thesis on an approved topic completes the requirements of the PhD. More details are available at https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/philosophy/.
PHIL*6220 Epistemology Unspecified [0.50]
A critical examination of some selected major works or central problems in epistemology.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6230 Ethics Unspecified [0.50]
A critical examination of some selected contemporary works or problems in ethical theory.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6320 Medieval Philosophy Unspecified [0.50]
A close examination of particular problems and texts of the medieval period
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6340 Modern Philosophy Unspecified [0.50]
An examination of major texts, from Descartes to Mill.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6400 Ethics of Data Science Unspecified [0.50]
A study of the philosophical implications (ethical, legal, social, political, epistemological, etc.) of recent developments in data science, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.

PHIL*6530 Kant Unspecified [0.50]
A critical examination of the works of Immanuel Kant.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6600 Social and Political Philosophy I Unspecified [0.50]
A critical examination of selected works or central problems in the fields of social or political philosophy.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6610 Social and Political Philosophy II Unspecified [0.50]
A critical examination of selected works or central problems in the field of social and political philosophy not covered in PHIL*6600.
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6620 Feminist Philosophy Unspecified [0.50]
A critical examination of selected works or central problems in feminist philosophy.
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6700 Ancient Philosophy Unspecified [0.50]
An examination of a text or a topic in ancient philosophy.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6730 Philosophy of Science Unspecified [0.50]
An examination of selected works or central problems in philosophy of science.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6740 Philosophy of Biology Unspecified [0.50]
A general introduction to the history and philosophy of biology.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6760 Science and Ethics Unspecified [0.50]
A consideration of the problems which arise in the conjunction of science and ethics.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6900 Reading Course Unspecified [0.50]
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6930 Selected Topics I Unspecified [0.50]
Topics in this course will vary from offering to offering.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6940 Selected Topics II Unspecified [0.50]
Topics in this course will vary from offering to offering.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6950 MA Seminar Unspecified [0.50]
A seminar course in which students work on developing a range of academic skills for doing professional philosophy. This course is pass/fail and is mandatory for all incoming MA students. Please refer to the Philosophy Department website for a comprehensive description of this course.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6960 PhD Seminar Fall and Winter [0.50]
A seminar course in which students work on developing a range of academic skills for doing professional philosophy. This course is pass/fail and is mandatory for all first year PhD students. Please refer to the Philosophy Department website for a comprehensive description of this course.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6990 Major Research Project Unspecified [1.00]
A major research project undertaken by students doing an MA by course work, under the supervision of a faculty member.
Department(s): Department of Philosophy
Location(s): Guelph