

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. Within the MA (major research project) program, students may choose to specialize in the field of Philosophy of Data Science.

Administrative Staff

Chair

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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 - Professor and Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies), College of Arts

Graduate Faculty

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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, M.Phil., PhD Cambridge - Professor

Graduate Faculty

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Graduate Faculty

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Graduate Faculty

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BA Toronto, MA McGill, PhD Michigan State - Associate Professor

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BA Bradley, MA, PhD New York - Associate Professor

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BAH Simon Fraser, M.Sc. New York, PhD Duke - Associate Professor

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Graduate Faculty

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BA McGill, MA Concordia, PhD Western - Associate Professor and Chair

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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, and philosophy of science. It is primarily a research degree and the program will involve either an MA thesis or the smaller Major Research Project.

The MA in Philosophy also offers a Philosophy of Data Science field, through which students consider a variety of interpretations and assessments of the social, political, and ethical implications of advances in Data Science / Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning (DS/AI/ML), as well as some of the real epistemological and metaphysical quandaries these new technologies present. Students in this field complete a 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 or, for applicants to the Philosophy of Data Science field, a background in psychology, computer science, statistics, and/or business. Applicants to the Philosophy of Data Science field should also have some familiarity with programming (e.g., CIS*1500 Introduction to Programming, or equivalent), or will be required to complete some additional coursework upon admission. 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-time studies on the University of Guelph system) be at least 75%. All applicants are required to submit a sample of writing. Further details can be found on the Philosophy Department website (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/philosophy/>).

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 all streams are expected to develop their own topic for research.

Thesis

Total of 2 credits in graduate course work required, consisting of:

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL*6950	MA Seminar	0.50
Three graduate courses		1.50
Completion and defence of a thesis		0.00

Course Work and Major Research Project (MRP)

Total of 4 credits in graduate course work required, consisting of:

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL*6950	MA Seminar	0.50
Five graduate courses		2.50
PHIL*6990	Major Research Project	1.00

Course Work and Major Research Project (MRP) in the field of Philosophy of Data Science

Total of 4 credits in graduate course work required, consisting of:

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL*6950	MA Seminar	0.50
PHIL*6400	Ethics of Data Science	0.50
PHIL*6410	Philosophy of Computation	0.50
STAT*6950	Statistical Methods for the Life Sciences	0.50
Two graduate courses		1.00
PHIL*6990	Major Research Project	1.00

PhD Program

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

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.

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/>.

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.

Neuroscience

The Department of Philosophy participates in the PhD collaborative specialization in neuroscience. Please consult the Neuroscience (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/collaborative-specializations/neuroscience/>) listing for a detailed description of the PhD collaborative specialization.

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.

Sexualities, Genders and Bodies

The Philosophy program participates in the collaborative specialization in Sexualities, Genders and Bodies. MA and Doctoral students wishing to undertake thesis research or their major research paper/project with an emphasis on sexualities, genders and bodies are eligible to apply to register concurrently in Philosophy and the collaborative specialization. Students should consult the Sexualities, Genders

and Bodies (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/collaborative-specializations/sexualities-genders-and-bodies/) 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

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.

Department(s): Department of Philosophy

PHIL*6410 Philosophy of Computation Fall Only [0.50]

Computation has far-reaching implications for ethics, social and political philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of technology, the philosophy of mathematics, the philosophy of science, and logic. This course introduces students to different issues in the philosophy of computation-how philosophers have thought about computation from a variety of different perspectives.

Offering(s): Annually

Department(s): Department of Philosophy

Location(s): Guelph

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.

Offering(s): Occasional years

Department(s): Department of Philosophy

Location(s): Guelph

PHIL*6620 Feminist Philosophy Unspecified [0.50]

A critical examination of selected works or central problems in feminist philosophy.

Department(s): Department of 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