

# Philosophy and Religious Studies



The **Philosophy** program provides students with the intellectual tools and scholarly background necessary for a deep, critical understanding of human experience. The major philosophers and intellectual traditions, Western and Eastern, are analyzed in order to show how philosophy relates directly to problems that thoughtful men and women face in the world today.

Our department is also home to a lively student club and a philosophy honor society, *Phi Sigma Tau*. Undergraduate conferences, study abroad, and field trips provide additional learning opportunities.

## Tenured Faculty/Advisors



**Matthew Altman, PhD (U. Chicago)**  
Kant, 19th-Century Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Normative Ethics



**Cynthia Coe, PhD (U. Oregon)**  
Continental Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy



**Michael Goerger, PhD (U. California, Riverside)**  
Ethical Theory, Ancient Greco-Roman Philosophy



**Gary Bartlett, PhD (Rutgers U.)**  
Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Cognitive Science



**Jeffrey Dippmann, PhD (Northwestern U.) [Chair]**  
Asian Religion & Philosophy, World Religions



**Lily Vuong, PhD (McMaster U.)**  
Early Judaism, Early Christianity, New Testament Apocrypha, Feminist Theory

## What Employers Want

Skills and qualities fostered by our programs:

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Analytical skills     | Attention to detail |
| Written communication | Critical thinking   |
| Verbal communication  | Creativity          |
| Ethical awareness     | Initiative          |
| Interpersonal skills  | Leadership skills   |

## Non-Tenure-Track Faculty



**Clayton Bohnet, PhD (Duquesne U.)**  
Continental Philosophy, Critical Thinking, Philosophy of Art



**Lauren Nuckols, PhD (The Pennsylvania State U.)**  
Environmental Philosophy, Ethics, Pragmatism



**Karen Turcotte, MA (CWU)**  
Comparative Religions, Indian Religion & Philosophy

**Michael Hundley, PhD (U. Cambridge)**  
Ancient Religions, Hebrew Bible, World Religions



**David Schwan, PhD (Bowling Green State U.)**  
Critical Thinking, Philosophy of Emotion, Moral Psychology



Philosophy & Religious Studies alumni find a wealth of employment opportunities in such fields as:

- |           |             |             |            |            |                   |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Academia  | Business    | Information | Science    | Consulting | Ethics Compliance |
| Education | Engineering | Government  | Journalism | Law        | Marketing         |
| Medicine  | Ministry    | Non-Profits | Publishing | Finance    | Technical Writing |

**Application Process: Meet with any of our program faculty and complete the major or minor form, or contact us at [philo@cwu.edu](mailto:philo@cwu.edu) or 509-963-1818.**

# Philosophy Curriculum

Courses are five (5) credits unless otherwise specified.

## Philosophy Major - 50 credits or 60 credits

Students may choose either a 50- or a 60-credit major.  
In order to graduate, a student who completes the 50-credit major must also have a minor or a second major in another discipline.

**Select one of the following: (5)**

- PHIL 151 Arguments about Life and Death
- PHIL 152 Arguments about Healthcare
- PHIL 153 Arguments about Social Issues
- PHIL 251 Introduction to Formal Logic

**Required Courses:**

- PHIL 352 Greek and Roman Philosophy
- PHIL 353 Early Modern Philosophy
- PHIL 354 Kant and 19th-Century Philosophy
- PHIL 488 Junior Seminar
- PHIL 494 Undergraduate Thesis Preparation\* (2)

**Select either:**

PHIL 495 Undergraduate Thesis\* (3) or PHIL 497 Honors Thesis\* (3) **Total: 30**

*\*per advisor's approval*

**Select one course from the following value-based courses: (5)**

- PHIL 302 Ethical Theory
- PHIL 304 Business Ethics
- PHIL 306 Environmental Ethics
- PHIL 308 Medical Ethics
- PHIL 347 Philosophy of Law
- PHIL 348 Social and Political Philosophy
- PHIL 403 Philosophy of Art
- PHIL 465 Advanced Ethics

**Select one course from the following contemporary analytic and continental philosophy courses: (5)**

- PHIL 358 Existentialism
- PHIL 361 Theory of Knowledge
- PHIL 364 Philosophy of Mind
- PHIL 380 Philosophy of Science
- PHIL 459 Contemporary European Philosophy

**Select one course from the following diversity courses: (5)**

- PHIL 325 Women and Philosophy
- PHIL 345 Chinese Philosophy
- PHIL 357 Philosophy of Race
- RELS 403 Buddhist Thought and Practice

**Electives: 5 (for small plan) or 15 (for large plan)**

*Any PHIL courses (at most 5 credits at the 100- or 200-level)*

**Total Credits: 50 or 60**

## Philosophy Minor - 24-25 credits

**Required Courses:**

- PHIL 151 Arguments about Life and Death
- PHIL 152 Arguments about Healthcare
- PHIL 153 Arguments about Social Issues
- PHIL 251 Introduction to Formal Logic

**Electives: 19-20**

*Select from PHIL courses at least 15 credits at 300-level or above*

**Total Credits: 24-25**

## Ethics Minor - 25-27 credits

**Required Courses:**

- PHIL 104 Moral Controversies
- PHIL 485 Capstone Project (2)

**Select two courses from the following: (10)**

- PHIL 302 Ethical Theory
- PHIL 308 Medical Ethics
- PHIL 304 Business Ethics
- PHIL 309 Ethics through Film
- PHIL 306 Environmental Ethics
- PHIL 465 Advanced Ethics

**Electives: (no more than 5 credits can be taken from one discipline) 8-10**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COM 202 Communication Ethics and the First Amendment (4)</li> <li>COM 333 Communication Ethics (4 credits, for COM majors only)</li> <li>IT 301 Information Technology Security, Privacy and Ethics (3)</li> <li>LAJ 401 Ethics, Diversity and Conflict in Criminal Justice (4 credits, for LAJ majors only)</li> <li>PHIL 309 Ethics through Film</li> <li>PHIL 325 Women and Philosophy</li> <li>PHIL 345 Chinese Philosophy</li> <li>PHIL 357 Philosophy of Race</li> <li>POSC 452 The Constitution and Human Rights</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>POSC 475 International Human Rights</li> <li>RELS 353 Judaism</li> <li>RELS 354 Christianity</li> <li>RELS 355 Islam</li> <li>RELS 376 Contemporary Religious Thought</li> <li>RELS 401 Daoist Tradition</li> <li>RELS 403 Buddhist Thought and Practice</li> <li>SOC 320 Death and Dying</li> <li>SOC 354 Minority Experience (4)</li> </ul> |
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*or other ethics-related courses as approved by minor advisor.*

*Special topics courses, cooperative education credit, and independent study courses may also count toward elective credit.*

**Total Credits: 25-27**

## Recommended Two-Year Plan

*The Philosophy major is highly flexible and allows for an additional major or minor. Below is a sample plan that will allow the program to be completed in two years.*

### Year One

Fall	PHIL 352 Greek and Roman Philosophy Logic Requirement: - PHIL 150 Critical Thinking or - PHIL 307 Introduction to Formal Logic
Winter	PHIL 353 Early Modern Philosophy Elective (select one from value-based, contemporary analytic and continental philosophy, or diversity courses)
Spring	PHIL 354 Kant and 19th-Century Philosophy PHIL 488 Junior Seminar

### Year Two

Fall	Elective (select one from value-based, contemporary analytic and continental philosophy, or diversity courses) Upper-Division Elective
Winter	Elective (select one from value-based, contemporary analytic and continental philosophy, or diversity courses) PHIL 494 Undergraduate Thesis Preparation
Spring	Two Large Plan Upper-Division Electives PHIL 495 Undergraduate Thesis or PHIL 497 Honors Thesis