



Philosophy

Philosophy is quite unlike any other field. It is unique both in its methods and in the nature and breadth of its subject matter, it pursues questions in every dimension of human life, and its techniques apply to problems in any field of study or endeavour.

Program Overview

Philosophy

Philosophy develops the capacity to see the world from the perspective of other individuals and other cultures; it enhances one's ability to perceive the relationships among the various fields of study; and it deepens one's sense of the meaning and varieties of human experience.

The great virtue of philosophy is that it teaches not what to think, but how to think. Philosophy students develop finely honed analytic skills and problem solving abilities that make them extremely effective in a variety of professional careers.

Sub-Fields

Logic is the science of reasoning. It is concerned to provide sound methods for distinguishing good from bad reasoning.

Ethics takes up the meaning of our moral concepts (such as right action, obligation, goodness, justice) and formulates principles to guide moral decisions whether private or public life.

Metaphysics seeks basic criteria for determining what sorts of things are real, for what exists.

Epistemology investigates the nature, source, content, and scope of human knowledge. It concerns justification, whether our beliefs can be objectively true, and whether knowledge is even possible.

The History of Philosophy studies both major philosophers and entire periods in the development of philosophy.

Many other branches have grown from these traditional core areas. For example: from metaphysics has developed the **Philosophy of Mind**, and the **Philosophy of Religion**. The **Philosophy of Science** is perhaps the largest subfield developed from epistemology. From ethics have come major sub-fields such as **Political Philosophy**, The **Philosophy of Law**, and applied ethics sub-fields such as **Biomedical Ethics**, and **Environmental Ethics**.

Philosophy at TRU

Our department offers courses on everything from **Plato to Logic, Epistemology to Philosophy of Rock, Empiricism to Philosophy of Sex and Love, Philosophy of Mind to Feminism**. Our faculty has expertise in both the **continental and analytic traditions, history of philosophy, applied ethics, feminism, pop culture and philosophy of law**.

With small class sizes and a faculty that is committed to undergraduate education, the Philosophy Major at TRU provides a solid grounding in both traditional fields of philosophical study and cutting edge courses in contemporary issues and ideas. The major in Philosophy offers a sufficient number of courses in core areas of philosophy for graduates to be able to gain admission to graduate studies in philosophy. At the same time, the program is sufficiently flexible that it will also satisfy the needs and interests of students who are not contemplating graduate studies in philosophy or who may be planning on pursuing other post-baccalaureate degrees.

Knowledge and Skills Gained

Ability to:

- Factor complex problems into solvable pieces
- Evaluate plans for coherence and relevance
- Think clearly and logically
- Objectively evaluate counterintuitive strategies
- Draw accurate conclusions from confusing data
- Express difficult ideas in clear prose

Knowledge of:

- The ideas that have driven the course of history
- The foundations of current thought
- The historical ideas of science, psychology, and sociology.

Potential Careers for Philosophers

Law; MBA; Education; Technology; Social Services; Business & Industry.

Any job or career that requires problem solving, good verbal and written communication skills, trainability, critical thinking and versatility will value an applicant with a philosophy degree.

Admission Information

Philosophy Major and Minor Programs

The Philosophy Major will appeal to students interested in pursuing graduate studies in philosophy, a career in law, business, journalism, government or education. The Philosophy Major and Minor programs allow students to choose from an array of fascinating core courses and exciting speciality courses. It is possible for students to combine their Major in Philosophy with a Major in another subject area. For more details on our programs please contact the department.

Philosophy Major Requirements

Lower Level: 15 credits
PHIL 1010, 1020, or 1100
PHIL 2100 or 2210
PHIL 2140 or 2150
PHIL 2220
PHIL 2100

Upper Level: 30 credits
PHIL 3010
PHIL 3140 or 3150
PHIL 3100 or 4100
PHIL 3160 or 3170
PHIL 3500
15 credits of 3000 or 4000 numbered philosophy courses

Philosophy Minor Requirements

To get a Minor in Philosophy you have to do 30 credits (10 courses) and of those 30 credits, 18 credits (6 courses) must be at the upper level.

There are no required courses for the minor, and no stipulations regarding which courses you must take, but 6 of the ten course must be at the upper level, and you must have the appropriate pre-requisites (if any).

Philosophy Faculty

Dr. Bruce Baugh, Professor
Ph.D. (Toronto) M.A. (Brit.Col.), B.A. (UBC)
Dr. Jeff McLaughlin, Associate Professor
Ph.D., (Alta) B.A., M.A. (Man.)
Dr. Robin Tapley, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. (McMaster), M.A. (UNB) B.A. (McGill)
Dr. Jenna Woodrow, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. M.A. (Dalhousie) B.A.. (U of Lethbridae)

Admission to TRU

TRU is a unique, comprehensive university offering undergraduate and graduate degrees and two-year professional diplomas, along with certificates, trade-entry and apprenticeship training and university preparation courses.

Applications for Admission to most programs are accepted starting Oct. 1 each year for programs that begin in August or September of the following year. Check the website for application deadlines, program start dates, and detailed admissions processes: Open, Limited and Selective.

Applications to the TRU Bachelor of Arts program are available from:

Academic Admissions Office
Thompson Rivers University
900 McGill, Kamloops,
British Columbia V2C 0C8
Tel: 250.828.5036
Email: admissions@tru.ca

www.tru.ca/arts/php
www.tru.ca/arts/php/undergrad_programs/Philosophy.html

Program Costs

Please see the current calendar for details

Visit: www.tru.ca/calendar

Cost Calculator:
www.tru.ca/admissions/fees/costs.html

Program Contacts

Jeff McLaughlin
Chair, Department of Philosophy, History and Politics
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B.A. Advisor – Faculty of Arts
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Additional Information

Please visit our web pages for more information: www.tru.ca/arts/php