

Philosophy Department

Contact Us

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Description

Philosophy is the study of fundamental questions concerning the nature of what is and what ought to be. The basis of the study of philosophy is the ancient search for self-knowledge and the love of wisdom. In Plato's Dialogues, Socrates says, "Wonder is the feeling of a philosopher, and philosophy begins in wonder." The study of philosophy employs the human capacity to reflect, reason, and make critical judgments in order to consider questions such as: What is the good? What is justice? What is the nature of reality? What if anything can be known for certain? What is the nature of beauty? What is the meaning of human history and human life? Philosophy also examines the principles of logical, scientific, and religious thought, and the great systems of nature and culture employed in the search for truth. Students majoring in philosophy often enter the fields of law, medicine, or business. For these fields a background in logic, ethics, and critical thinking is particularly important. Some students who major in philosophy pursue graduate study in philosophy leading to positions in university teaching. On the graduate level, the department offers programs leading to master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees.

Concentrations

Majors are offered in the area(s) of: **Philosophy; Philosophy and Religion; Classics and Philosophy**. For details, see the Major page for each area. Minors are offered in the area(s) of: **Philosophy**. For details, see the Minor page for each area.

Faculty

Chair/Director: John Stuhr
Director of Undergraduate Studies: Michael Sullivan

Core Faculty

David Carr; Thomas Flynn; Nicholas Fotion; Ursula Goldenbaum; Ann Hartle; Donald Livingston; John Lysaker; Rudolf Makkreel; Noelle McAfee; Andrew Mitchell; Richard Patterson; Mark Risjord; John Stuhr; Michael Sullivan; Donald Verene; Cynthia Willett

Associated Faculty

Frederick Marcus

Adjunct Faculty

Kent Still

Courses

Core Subjects

This department offers courses in the following subject(s): **Philosophy**. For a list of specific courses in each subject area, see the course descriptions page for that subject.

Programs

Honors Program

See "Honors Program" under the curriculum section of the catalog and consult the department for further details.

Awards and Honors

(1) Students who achieve the requisite cumulative grade point averages both in five philosophy courses and in the college are eligible for election to Phi Sigma Tau, the national honor society in philosophy. The Emory chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, Beta of Georgia, has been active since 1979, and sponsors various intellectual and scholarly activities throughout the academic year.

(2) The Paul Kuntz Prize, established in 1989, is awarded annually to a philosophy major for excellence in undergraduate philosophy. It carries a monetary award of one hundred dollars.

(3) The Charles Hartshorne Philosophy Essay Prize, open to all students of Emory College, is awarded annually. It carries a monetary award of one hundred dollars.

(4) The William F. Edwards Undergraduate Lecture, established in 1988, is given annually on a topic of broad philosophical interest to all undergraduates.