

Develop the philosophical skills of thinking and writing with precision, clarity, and logical rigor. Philosophers excel at careful argumentation, judgment, and analysis. These abilities allow our alumni to thrive in a wide range of careers:

- Physicians
- Attorneys
- Consultants
- Professors
- Designers
- Journalists

“ Academic philosophy is sometimes criticized for being too theoretical, but it has had a far more pervasive effect on my life than anything else I studied at Stanford. From ethics to logic to political theory, the philosophy courses I took helped me develop answers to big questions about what and how I should be. The conversations I had with my philosophy professors and peers have driven my decisions about what I eat, where I work, and how I spend my time. ”

Alexander Berger, '11, MA Education
Program officer at GiveWell, an independent, nonprofit charity evaluator

Philosophy



WHAT IS A JUST SOCIETY?

**DOES SCIENCE TELL US
EVERYTHING WE NEED
TO KNOW?**

IS MORALITY OBJECTIVE?



THE EXAMINED LIFE

Philosophy investigates the fundamental structure of reality and asks questions about our place in the world and how we should act in it. With philosophy you gain the tools needed to make arguments and exercise sound judgment about the most fundamental concerns of human life.

You will have opportunities to pursue traditional core areas of philosophy along with a diverse array of subfields:

- Theory of knowledge
- Political philosophy
- History of philosophy
- Logic
- Philosophy of language and mind
- Ethics and morality
- Metaphysics

Explore your interests through thought-provoking courses like:

- *Philosophy and Science Fiction*
- *Philosophical Issues in Quantum Mechanics*
- *Universal Basic Income: The Philosophy Behind the Proposal*
- *Self-knowledge and Consciousness*

PHILOSOPHY AND TECHNOLOGY

Will robots have feelings and consciousness? If so, how should we treat them? What moral principles should an artificial intelligence be programmed to obey? Is a society in which everyone's personal information is instantly available a utopia or a nightmare?

Technology's ever-changing role in our world raises urgent philosophical questions. As a philosophy student, you will gain the skills needed to take the lead in answering these questions whenever and wherever they arise.

STRONG CONNECTIONS

Philosophical questions have major impact in the real world. How do we know what we think we know? At Stanford you will apply philosophy to everything. You can see the broad importance of philosophy in the department's interdisciplinary programs and initiatives:

- Ethics in Society
- Symbolic Systems
- History and Philosophy of Science
- Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Philosophy and Literature of Science

PICTURED: *Ethical Theory* course