

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN **PHILOSOPHY**

OVERVIEW

“The unexamined life is not worth living,” Socrates once noted. Indeed, the development of critical thinking and rational judgment is the focus of philosophy. In examining and interpreting the works of past and contemporary philosophers, students have the opportunity to explore the basic questions concerning the nature and sources of human knowledge and values. Through interactive dialogue with teachers and peers, students acquire speaking and writing skills that enable them to communicate their own views effectively. By taking a holistic approach which incorporates multicultural and values-oriented thinking, philosophy courses encourage students to reflect on social issues. The focus on economic and racial oppression is at the center of the philosophical dialogue.

A significant goal of the Department of Philosophy is to provide students with relevant courses of study and high standards of achievement that will prepare them for graduate or professional school. Given the holistic perspective, the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy prepares students for graduate work in philosophy, law, political science, social work, public administration, and education.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Philosophy Department offers the courses *Introduction to Philosophy* and *Ethics*, which are a required segment of Lewis University's General Education program. The department also offers a variety of elective courses covering both the history of philosophy and topic areas including aesthetics, logic, political philosophy, philosophy of law, and contemporary philosophical issues.

The Philosophy Department strives to provide opportunities for students to engage in the enterprise of open-minded, rational inquiry, critical thinking, and to develop an understanding of themselves as part of the global community. Students are encouraged to participate in philosophy-related organizations and events. These include the Philosophy Club, the National Philosophy Honor Society (Phi Sigma Tau), Peace-Education teach-ins, and the annual Lewis University Philosophy Conference.

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**BACHELOR OF ARTS/
PHILOSOPHY**

Total Credit Hours: 128

Major Credit Hours: 36

I. Core Courses (18)

- 15-110 Introduction to Philosophy (3)
- 15-299 Logic and Critical Thinking (3)
- 15-301 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3)
- 15-330 Ethics (Action and Values) (3)
- 15-370 Modern Philosophy (3)
- 15-410 Research in Philosophy (3)

II. Electives (9)

- 15-225 Philosophical Issues in Race and Gender (3)
OR
- 15-303 Love, Hatred and Resentment (3)
- 15-275 Existentialism (3)
OR
- 15-385 Contemporary European Philosophy (3)
- 15-305 Philosophy of God (3)
OR
- 15-315 Philosophy of the Human Being (3)

III. Select three additional philosophy electives (9)

IV. The advanced writing requirement of the General Education curriculum is satisfied by philosophy majors by successful completion of Research in Philosophy (15-410).

V. Majors are required to present their final paper, written to fulfill requirements for Research in Philosophy (15-410), for discussion in a faculty/student seminar. In addition, majors must demonstrate awareness of contemporary social issues through various options determined in consultation with their advisors. The department recommends that majors acquire word processing skills before taking Research in Philosophy (15-410). Majors are required to maintain a B average in their philosophy courses.

MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY

Total Credit Hours: 18

I. Core Courses (6)

- 15-110 Introduction to Philosophy (3)
- 15-330 Ethics (Action and Values) (3)

II. Select four additional Philosophy electives (12)



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