

trentu.ca/philosophy

Associate Professor and Chair of the Department

B. Stoyles, BA (Huron), MA, PhD (Western)

Professors

L. Groarke, BA, MA (Calgary), PhD (Western)

D. McDermid, BA (Western), MA, PhD (Brown)

Professor and Kenneth Mark Drain Endowed Chair in Ethics

K. Norlock, BA (Northern Illinois), MA, PhD (Wisconsin–Madison)

Associate Professors

M. W. Hickson, BA (Western), MA (Catholic University of America), PhD (Western) (on leave Fall term)

M. Howes, BSc, MA (Guelph), PhD (Western) (on leave Fall term)

Senior Lecturer

J. Connelly, BA (Alberta), MA (Saskatchewan), PhD (York)

The Philosophy Department at Trent aims to provide students with critical skills in understanding, evaluating, defending, and criticizing arguments. Some students recognize the intrinsic merits and interests of Philosophy. Our program ensures that these students are provided with grounding in the history of the discipline as well as opportunities to explore areas of particular philosophical interest. Other students wish to develop the kinds of critical reading, writing, thinking, and speaking skills that are best taught in Philosophy courses. These students recognize the value of these skills whatever discipline they study at Trent and whatever futures they imagine for themselves. The undergraduate program at Trent offers programs that are designed to satisfy the needs of both kinds of students.

Notes

- It is strongly recommended that students successfully complete two of PHIL 1000H, 1100H, or 1200H before enrolling in upper-level Philosophy courses.
- The minimum requirement for registration in any Philosophy 2000-level course is successful completion of 4.0 university credits or permission of the chair of the department.
- The minimum requirement for registration in any Philosophy 3000- or 4000-level course is successful completion of 7.0 university credits or permission of the chair of the department.
- Students may earn a joint-major Honours BSc in Philosophy and a Science subject if they satisfy the departmental requirements for the joint-major Honours program in Philosophy and in the Science subject and if they complete 14.0 science credits. PHIL-COIS 2410H, PHIL-PSYC 2270H (2770Y), and PHIL 2780H count as science credits. Students who wish to earn a BSc should consult with the chair of the department very early in their program.
- For the Emphasis in Applied Ethics, see [p. 393](#).

Bachelor of Arts Program in Philosophy

- In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must satisfy the University degree requirements (see p. 15).
- The same course may not simultaneously satisfy the requirements of both programs in a joint-major degree.
- PHIL 1000H, 1100H, and 1200H are strongly recommended for all students in Philosophy.
- It is strongly recommended that students majoring in Philosophy take PHIL-AHCL 2420H and/or 2430H (2400Y) before they take PHIL 3420H or 3430H (3100Y), and that they take PHIL-AHCL 2420H and/or 2430H (2400Y) in the second year of the program.
- PHIL-COIS 2410H is strongly recommended for all students in Philosophy, especially for those intending to do graduate work in Philosophy.
- No more than 1.0 credit from reading courses may count toward the number of Philosophy credits required for the degree.

The single-major Honours program. 20.0 credits including the following 9.0 credits:

- 1.5 PHIL credits at the 4000 level
- 3.5 PHIL credits at the 3000 level or beyond in addition to the above
- 4.0 PHIL credits in addition to the above

The 9.0 credits must include:

- 0.5 PHIL credit from PHIL 1200H (or 1005Y) or 2410H
- 2.0 PHIL credits from PHIL 2420H, 2430H, 3420H, 3430H, 4530H, or 4540H (or 2400Y, 3100Y)

The joint-major Honours program. 20.0 credits including the following 7.0 credits:

- 1.0 PHIL credit at the 4000 level
- 2.5 PHIL credits at the 3000 level or beyond in addition to the above
- 3.5 PHIL credits in addition to the above
- The 7.0 credits must include 2.0 PHIL credits from PHIL 2420H, 2430H, 3420H, 3430H, 4530H, or 4540H (or 2400Y, 3100Y)

The single-major General program. 15.0 credits including the following 6.0 credits:

- 2.0 PHIL credits at the 3000 level or beyond
- 4.0 PHIL credits in addition to the above
- The 6.0 credits must include 2.0 PHIL credits from PHIL 2420H, 2430H, 3420H, 3430H, 4530H, or 4540H (or 2400Y, 3100Y)

The joint-major General program. 15.0 credits including the following 5.0 credits:

- 1.5 PHIL credits at the 3000 level or beyond
- 3.5 PHIL credits in addition to the above
- The 5.0 credits must include 1.0 PHIL credit from PHIL 2420H, 2430H, 3420H, 3430H, 4530H, or 4540H (or 2400Y, 3100Y)

The minor in Philosophy consists of the following 5.0 credits:

- 1.5 PHIL credits at the 3000 level or beyond
- 3.5 PHIL credits in addition to the above
- The 5.0 credits must include 1.0 PHIL credit from PHIL 2420H, 2430H, 3420H, 3430H, 4530H, or 4540H (or 2400Y, 3100Y)

Please consult the academic timetable for information on courses that will be offered in 2018–2019, including when they will be scheduled.

- » **PHIL 1000H: Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality**
An introduction to philosophy through a study of fundamental philosophical problems concerning the nature of reality, knowledge, and the mind, as presented in contemporary writings and/or classical texts. Complements PHIL 1100H. Excludes PHIL 1001Y, 1003H.
- » **PHIL 1100H: Introduction to Philosophy: Moral and Political**
An introduction to philosophy through a study of fundamental philosophical problems in moral and political philosophy, as presented in contemporary writings and/or classical texts. Complements PHIL 1000H. Excludes PHIL 1001Y, 1002H.
- » **PHIL 1200H: Critical Thinking**
An introduction to basic principles of good reasoning and argumentation in everyday life and various academic disciplines. Topics include argument structure and evaluation, clarity of expression, common mistakes in reasoning, inductive and deductive reasoning, and formal logic. Excludes PHIL 1004H, 1005Y, UNIV 1002H.
- » **PHIL 2010H: Love and Desire**
An exploration of philosophical treatments of love and desire, in order to consider fundamental questions of human nature, happiness, and moral practices. Readings in classic and contemporary texts may include such topics as the nature of love, the relationship between what we value and what we desire, and the ethics of relationships. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL 2020H: Philosophy of Sport and Recreation**
A philosophical study of sport and recreation. Topics include conceptual, ethical, political, and aesthetic perspectives on sports, games, play, and leisure. Specific attention is paid to philosophical issues concerning human movement and physical activity, embodiment and the mind-body relationship, and well-being and quality of life. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL 2030H: Death**
An exploration of philosophical treatments of death and dying, including their implications for a meaningful life. Readings in classical and contemporary texts may include such topics as the nature of death, our attitudes toward mortality, and end-of-life issues. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL 2110H: Moral Issues**
An engaged study of philosophical responses to ethical problems in contemporary society. Topics may include abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, animal rights, censorship and pornography, poverty and civil disobedience, and war and terrorism. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL 2300Y.
- » **PHIL-WMST 2141H: Discovering Feminist Thought (see Gender & Women's Studies)**
- » **PHIL-POST 2150H: Philosophy of Law**
A study of philosophical theories concerning the nature of law, legal systems, and legal reasoning. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL-POST 2032Y.
- » **PHIL 2160H: Asian Philosophy**
An introduction to diverse philosophical traditions of Asia. Special attention is paid to metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical dimensions of such traditions as Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism. Readings include primary sources in translation. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL 2820Y.

- » **PHIL-PSYC 2270H: Philosophy of Mind (Sc)**
An introduction to some of the central themes in philosophy of mind. Answers to ontological questions (what kinds of things are minds?) and epistemological questions (can we know that we and others have minds?) are used to focus discussions concerning personal identity, responsibility for action, animals' minds, and artificial intelligence. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL-PSYC 2770Y.
- » **PHIL 2320H: Existentialism**
A study of selected figures in Existentialism. Topics may include nihilism, creation, the birth of the individual, the meaning of life, freedom, choice, and commitment. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL 2140Y, 2340H, 2360H.
- » **PHIL-POST 2351H: The Political Imagination I (see Political Studies)**
- » **PHIL-POST 2352H: The Political Imagination II (see Political Studies)**
- » **PHIL 2390H: Biomedical Ethics**
An examination of central issues in the field of biomedical ethics. Topics may include abortion; euthanasia and assisted suicide; stem cell research; genetics; reproductive technologies; scarce resources; research using human subjects. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL-COIS 2410H: Symbolic Logic (Sc)**
An introductory study of formal logical systems, together with their use in the analysis of various types of arguments. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL-AHCL 2420H: Ancient Philosophy I: Pre-Socratics to Plato**
A study of early Greek philosophy focusing on Socrates, Plato, and their most influential predecessors. Complements PHIL-AHCL 2430H. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL-AHCL 2400Y.
- » **PHIL-AHCL 2430H: Ancient Philosophy II: Aristotle and the Hellenists**
A study of Greco-Roman philosophy focusing on Aristotle and the Hellenistic philosophers including the Epicureans and Stoics. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Recommended: PHIL-AHCL 2420H. Excludes PHIL-AHCL 2400Y.
- » **PHIL 2750H: Philosophy of Religion**
An inquiry into the nature of religion and religious belief; the relations among faith, reason, knowledge, and revelation; the analysis of religious language; the mystical claim to direct knowledge of God; the nature of evil; and religion and ethics. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL 2780H: Philosophy of Science (Sc)**
A philosophical examination of the construction and validation of scientific theories, models, and experiments, with special emphasis on the question of whether science has a reliable claim to provide one objective truth about the material and human world on the basis of a uniquely rational form of inquiry. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL 2790H: Aesthetics**
An introduction to issues in aesthetics and the philosophy of art. Topics may include definitions of art; aesthetic concepts of beauty, ugliness, taste, and sublimity; the value and diversity of aesthetic experience; relations between morality and art; and art as an institution. Prerequisite: 4.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL 3010H: Philosophy and Literature**
A study of philosophy in literature and of the relationship between philosophy and literature. The focus is on the expression of philosophical ideas in literary or non-philosophical texts. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair.

- » **PHIL-PSYC 3020H: Philosophy of Emotion (Sc)**
An examination of theories of emotion in classical and contemporary philosophical texts. Topics may include the relation of emotion to belief, motivation, and desire; the rationality of emotion; emotions, self-knowledge, and self-deception; and the relations between different emotions and between emotions and the body. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL 3030H: The Meaning of Life**
An examination of ways of thinking about and ways of answering the question, “What is the meaning of life?” Classical attempts to account for the meaning of life in Eastern and Western philosophies, religious thought, and Indigenous knowledge systems are considered in relation to accounts defended in contemporary philosophical literature. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL-WMST 3050H: Philosophy, Gender, and Feminism**
A study of philosophical concepts of gender, sex and sexuality, feminist critique, and developments in feminist philosophies. Prerequisite 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL-WMST 2031Y.
- » **PHIL 3110H: Classics in Ethical Theory**
A study of canonical texts in the foundations of morals and particular ethical theories, including virtue ethics, Kantianism, and utilitarianism. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL 3380Y.
- » **PHIL 3120H: Contemporary Ethical Theory**
A study of twentieth- and twenty-first-century developments in ethical theory. Attention is given to the critical rethinking of traditional theories and to particular moral considerations such as those resulting from social change in relation to gender, race, and global development. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits including PHIL 3110H or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL 3380Y.
- » **PHIL-POST 3140H: Justice and Rights**
A study of the nature and value of rights in relation to competing theories of justice. Attention is given to the nature of power and oppression in relation to social change; topics may include class, ability, age, gender, and race. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL-POST 2032Y.
- » **PHIL-POST 3180H: Social and Political Philosophy**
An examination of philosophical theories related to political institutions and practices. Topics may include the foundations of the state, justified use of force, and limits to freedom. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL 3390Y.
- » **PHIL 3210H: Epistemology**
A wide-ranging introduction to the theory of knowledge. Topics may include the nature and limits of knowledge, external world skepticism, truth and objectivity, relativism, the possibility of moral knowledge, induction and the status of scientific theories, and the nature of rationality. Readings include classical as well as contemporary readings, with an emphasis on the latter. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL 3200Y.
- » **PHIL 3220H: Metaphysics**
A wide-ranging introduction to metaphysics. Topics may include realism and anti-realism, monism and pluralism, substance, change and identity, causation, events, free will and determinism, space and time, universals, properties, necessity, and possible worlds. Readings include classical as well as contemporary readings, with an emphasis on the latter. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL 3200Y.
- » **PHIL-ERST 3301H: Environmental Ethics (see Environmental & Resource Science/Studies)**
- » **PHIL-ERST-SAFS 3302H: Animals and Society (see Environmental & Resource Science/Studies)**

- » **PHIL 3310H: Phenomenology**
An investigation of the main ideas and methods of phenomenology, in particular its study of the conditions of experience, self, and world. Special emphasis on the works of Husserl, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits including PHIL 2140Y or 2320H or 2340H, or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL 3150Y.
- » **PHIL 3320H: Meaning and Interpretation**
Explores central issues in theories of interpretation and in strategies of textual reading, especially in response to phenomenology. Topics may include hermeneutics, deconstruction, and the ethics of alterity. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits including one of PHIL 2320H, 2340H, or 3310H, or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL 3160Y, 3330H, 3340H.
- » **PHIL-COIS 3370H: Cyberethics**
Enables students to develop their own positions about the most important social and moral problems raised by computer use and technologies, including the fragmentation of society into computer “haves” and “have-nots,” Internet censorship, pornography, intellectual property rights, and software piracy. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL-WMST-SOCI 3400H: Feminism and Disability (see Gender & Women’s Studies)**
- » **PHIL 3420H: Modern Philosophy I: Reason and Revolution**
The seventeenth century in Western Europe was an era of important revolutions in scientific, religious, and political thinking. This course studies the role that philosophers and their works played in these revolutions. Authors may include, but are not limited to, Descartes, Princess Elisabeth, Hobbes, Spinoza, Leibniz, and Conway. Complements PHIL 3430H. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Excludes PHIL 3100Y.
- » **PHIL 3430H: Modern Philosophy II: The Enlightenment**
The eighteenth century in Western Europe witnessed the rise and then critique of the intellectual movement called the “Enlightenment,” characterized by its promotion of freedom, equality, and the scientific method. This course studies philosophers sympathetic to and critical of the Enlightenment, such as Locke, Voltaire, Hume, Rousseau, and Kant. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair. Recommended: PHIL 3420H. Excludes PHIL 3100Y.
- » **PHIL 3900Y, 3901H, 3902H, 3903H: Reading Course**
Students are encouraged to pursue a special interest, largely through independent study, for a half- or full-course credit. Students must arrange details in consultation with faculty in Philosophy at least one month prior to the start of the semester in which the course is to be started. Subject to departmental and decanal approval. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL 4210H: Advanced Topics in Metaphysics and Epistemology**
A seminar devoted to in-depth investigation of selected central metaphysical and epistemological themes. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL-ADMN 4250H: Business Ethics and Corporations (See Business Administration)**
- » **PHIL-ADMN 4260H: Ethics and Capitalism (See Business Administration)**
- » **PHIL 4310H: Advanced Topics in Value Theory**
A study of central themes in value theory, to be chosen among issues in moral theory, aesthetic theory, and political theory. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL 4390H: Advanced Topics in Biomedical Ethics**
An in-depth examination of a specific issue in biomedical ethics. Topics vary each year and may include cloning and stem cell research; reproductive technologies, including abortion; genetics; end-of-life issues; justice in health care delivery. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits including PHIL 2390H, or permission of instructor.

- » **PHIL 4410H: Advanced Topics in Logic and Language**
An advanced study of some of the central themes in philosophy of logic or philosophy of language. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits including PHIL-COIS 2410H or permission of instructor.
- » **PHIL-AHCL 4430H: Advanced Topics in Ancient Philosophy**
A focused study of texts and ideas from philosophers in Greek and Roman antiquity. Specific topics are determined each year. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits including both PHIL-AHCL 2420H and 2430H or 2400Y, or permission of department chair.
- » **PHIL 4530H: Nineteenth-Century Philosophy**
A study of some central themes and important philosophers of the nineteenth century. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits including PHIL 3100Y or both 3420H or 3430H, or permission of instructor.
- » **PHIL 4540H: Twentieth-Century Philosophy**
A study of some central themes and important philosophers of the twentieth century. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits including PHIL 3100Y or both 3420H or 3430H, or permission of instructor.
- » **PHIL 4610H: Major Texts I**
A close study of one or more central texts by one or more important philosophers. Texts and philosophers to change annually. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of instructor.
- » **PHIL 4620H: Major Texts II**
A close study of one or more central texts by one or more important philosophers. Texts and philosophers to change annually. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits including PHIL 4610H or permission of instructor.
- » **PHIL-ERST 4705H: Environmental Aesthetics and the Environmental Imagination (see Environmental & Resource Science/Studies)**
- » **PHIL 4710H: Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Mind**
An in-depth investigation into some of the central issues in philosophy of mind, e.g., consciousness, embodiment, reasons for actions, the emotions, free will, zombies, thinking machines, conscious animals. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits including PHIL-PSYC 2270H or 2770Y or permission of instructor.
- » **PHIL 4720H: Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Science**
A study of central themes in philosophy of science, to be chosen from among issues in metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. Topics vary yearly and may include a focus on problems in one specific area of scientific inquiry. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits including PHIL 2780H or permission of instructor.
- » **PHIL 4900Y, 4901H, 4902H, 4903H: Reading Course**
Students are encouraged to pursue a special interest, largely through independent study, for a half- or full-course credit. Students must arrange details in consultation with faculty in Philosophy at least one month prior to the start of the semester in which the course is to be started. Subject to departmental and decanal approval. Prerequisite: 7.0 university credits or permission of department chair.