

PHILOSOPHY @ WAGNER

Philosophy enables students to construct and evaluate arguments, to entertain metaphysical and epistemological systems as well as ethical theories, and to make meaningful and critical comparisons of those systems and theories. Philosophy thus prepares students for a more reflective life by promoting the habit of entertaining competing worldviews, of always seeking an alternative, of not taking the usual for granted, and of imagining foreign states of mind. This philosophic attitude is invaluable in any professional field.

Wagner College is a competitive, four-year private college founded in 1883. The broad liberal arts curriculum is enhanced by a rich array of internship and other professional and cultural opportunities readily available in New York City.



For more information, contact the Admissions Office at (800) 221-1010 or visit our website at www.wagner.edu

Looking at the Intellectual Questions of the World

The philosophy major and minor address issues in classical and modern philosophy. Students learn to probe both abstract and concrete philosophical issues through intellectual inquiry and reason. The curriculum places strong emphasis on the acquisition of logical and linguistic skills which can be transferred into any area of intellectual endeavor when students graduate. Philosophy asks questions about reality, knowledge, reasoning, language, and conduct. People encounter these basic human questions, not merely in spoken and written word, but in life; they have the best chance to raise them, to experience their hidden power, and to feel their inevitability in the study of philosophy. The four main branches of study are:

metaphysics (What is the ultimate nature of reality? What is really real?); **epistemology** (What can we know about ourselves and about the cosmos, and how do we know?); **logic** (What are the principles of correct reasoning?); and **ethics** (What ultimate commitments, if any, are worthy of our allegiance?).

Other branches deal with questions concerning the nature of politics, society, law, medicine, and art.

SAMPLE CLASSES

Political Philosophy

This course examines and assesses various political theories concerning the relation between individuals and the state. Topics may include justice, power, human rights, natural law, democracy and representation, and utopias.

Medical Ethics

An in-depth examination of some major moral issues arising from or associated with the practice of medicine such as abortion, euthanasia, human experimentation, behavior control, the justice of the distribution of health care, among others.

Existentialism

This course examines the important texts and central ideas of the major existentialist thinkers, Heidegger and Sartre, as well as those of important precursors such as Kierkegaard and Nietzsche. Topics include the analysis of human reality, the basis of moral belief and decision, freedom, self-deception, anxiety, and the significance of death.

FIRST YEAR LEARNING COMMUNITY EXAMPLE

Diversity at Home and Abroad

This Learning Community will examine moral theory with an emphasis on the contemporary issues of race, gender, language, diversity, and rights. Students will also have the opportunity to begin the study of the Spanish language. This will be a literary, linguistic, philosophical and experiential journey in which students will learn to look at their own culture through different lenses. Field trips into New York City and firsthand accounts of immigrant communities will add a unique perspective to this learning community.

RESEARCH TOPICS

- “*Abortion from a Moral Perspective*”
- “*Euthanasia from a Moral Perspective*”
- “*Problems of Classical Moral Conducts*”
- “*Philosophical and Psychological Relation of Mind and Body*”

CONTACTS

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