

WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

Philosophy questions our deepest assumptions about the world and our lives. It demands that we think for ourselves about the values we hold, the lives we contemplate leading, and the nature of the universe in which we find ourselves. It examines the presuppositions of every other academic discipline. The study of philosophy explores the fascinating range of theories and worldviews that have been offered in humankind's attempt to comprehend reality. It will challenge you to formulate your own.

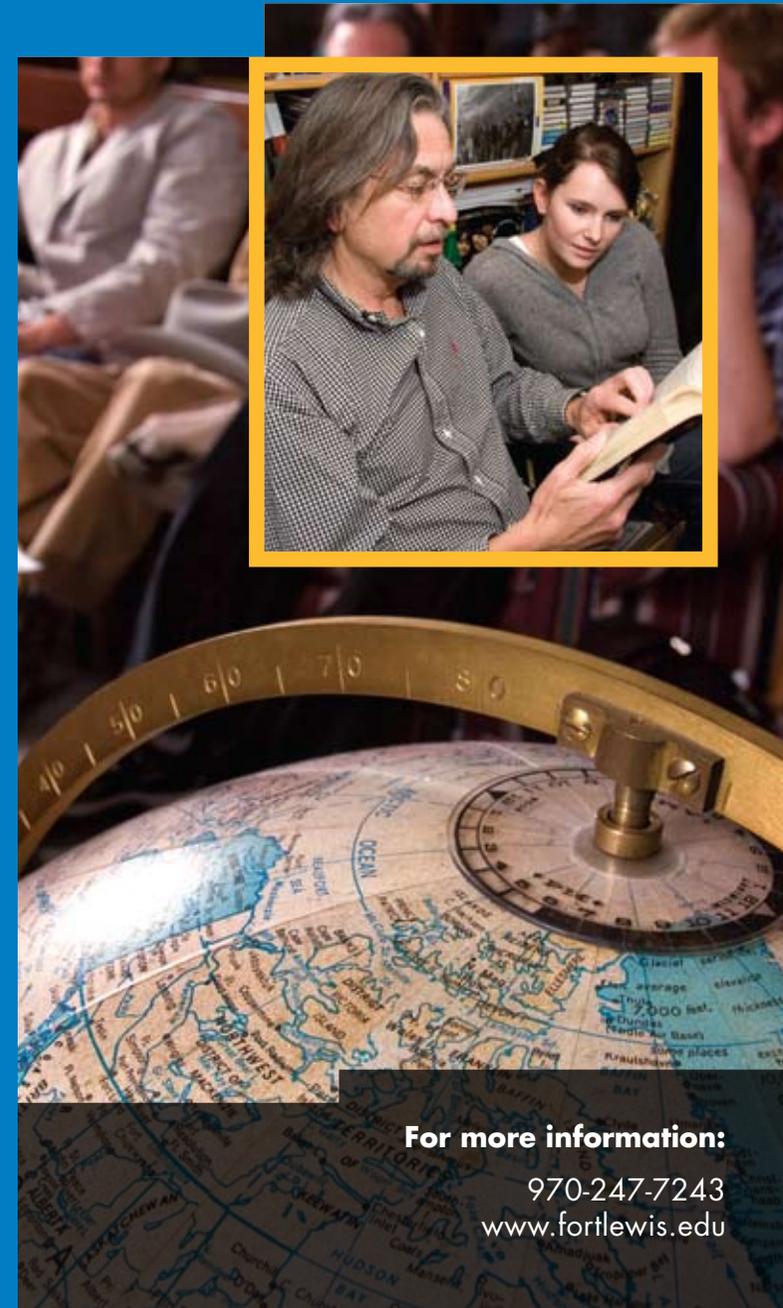
Originating over 2500 years ago in the Greek-speaking world of the eastern Mediterranean, philosophy is the discipline at the core of a liberal arts education. In keeping with this heritage, our classes encourage lively debate between students and professors over issues most central to our lives. By sharing our experiences and knowledge, and scrutinizing the basis for our own beliefs, we broaden our conception of reality and open ourselves to alternative views.



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Philosophy Department



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Philosophy at Fort Lewis College

Fields of Philosophy

Topics within philosophy are divided into those that study what is right, good, or beautiful (value theory), those that investigate the nature of what exists (metaphysics), and those that explore the possibility and extent of knowledge (epistemology).



Under these three main categories fall specific subject areas, such as ethics, philosophy of art, environmental philosophy, social and political philosophy, feminist philosophy, philosophy of religion, logic, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, etc.

Courses at Fort Lewis College cover both western philosophy and many non-western traditions, including indigenous worldviews and major religious traditions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Taoism, and Confucianism. The

program provides a strong grounding in the history of philosophy, while acquainting students with contemporary theories and approaches.

Programs and Faculty

Fort Lewis College offers both Major and Minor programs in Philosophy. Students have exciting opportunities for summer travel courses that explore philosophical traditions in cultures abroad as well as in the American Southwest. All liberal arts students, regardless of major, benefit from exposure to a philosophical exploration of their worldview, a comparison with other belief systems, and an analysis of their own underlying assumptions and values.

All full-time faculty members hold Doctoral Degrees in Philosophy, with specializations covering all the major fields in the discipline. This diversity of competencies allows us to offer an exceptionally wide range of courses so that students can follow their interests wherever they lead. From the ancients to the moderns, from the West to the East, from the continental existentialists to the English and American analytic philosophers, whatever your pursuit, you will find a qualified professor with whom to develop and deepen your understanding.



Opportunities beyond Fort Lewis College

A degree in Philosophy prepares students for a wide range of careers. The skills acquired in critical thinking, the formulation and evaluation of arguments, interpretation and analysis of texts, clarity of expression in speech and writing serve as a foundation for success in all fields. A Philosophy Major is an ideal preparation for law school, most professional programs, and for graduate work in Philosophy itself. Fort Lewis College Philosophy graduates have earned advanced degrees in Philosophy, Medicine, Law, Theology, Education, and many other professions.