



COLLEGE OF ARTS + SCIENCES

# Philosophy



**F**or centuries philosophers have asked difficult questions about issues that are at the center of human existence. What is the meaning and purpose of human life? How do minds differ from machines? How can one distinguish between right and wrong actions? Are there reasons to think that there is a God? By studying philosophy, you'll meet some of the greatest minds of human history. You'll learn to think critically, read carefully, and analyze arguments--in short, you'll acquire the skills to make a living. But more important, you'll learn how to make your life worth living.

## This is the place.

New Orleans has many expanding business sectors that require, above all other skills, logical and ethical thinking. Every business needs somebody in the boardroom who can step back and dissect a problem into its component parts—and that's something a philosophy major can do. Our city also has always attracted thinkers because of its openness to high culture. We have modern art galleries, the Marigny opera house, and experimental restaurants. New Orleans is the perfect place to cozy up with Plato, Nietzsche, and Sartre at the end of your day.

Put the philosophical concepts you've studied into action. If you enjoy working with children, join our Philosophy Kids Program, where you will engage third-graders in philosophical themes taken from children's literature. If you like to debate contemporary moral issues, sign up for our Ethics Bowl team to compete against students from across the country in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl and the National Bioethics Bowl. If you want to develop your own ideas about a philosophical problem, take on a senior thesis project and you'll graduate with honors in philosophy.

## Courses

Our program will give you a broad training in the central areas of philosophy. In the Systematic sequence, you'll take courses in logic, ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology, and in the Historical sequence, you will study the great thinkers in ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary philosophy. Here's a sample of what you can expect to learn and do:

### Ethics

This course is an historical and issue-based investigation of traditional ethical theories and texts, especially focusing on teleological, deontological theories, and virtue ethics and on modern responses to them. Readings include classical sources as well as contemporary voices that represent a variety of social backgrounds.

### Minds and Machines

This course explores the nature of the mind, mental events, and consciousness. It examines the traditional "mind-body problem", i.e., the relationship of the mind to the physical body, particularly the brain. It also addresses more contemporary issues in artificial intelligence, behaviorism, functionalism, and other theories of consciousness.

### Being and God

This course examines the nature of being and the existence of God from the standpoint of Catholic philosophical tradition. It studies topics such as the structure of finite being, the transcendentals, analogy and univocity of being, metaphysical causality, and the problem of creation.