

## Q & A

**PHILOSOPHY @ UNIVERSITY?** A university achieves prominence because of the exceptional work of its scholars. Similarly, the Philosophy Department of Fort Hare strives towards the highest standards of academic excellence. We aim to instil in our students our critical and self-critical attitude regarding all aspects of life. This approach becomes part of one's daily mind-set. As a result, it empowers us to cope better with the demands of university life, and with the demands of life in general.

**WHAT TO DO WITH PHILOSOPHY?** Philosophical studies, like most Humanities and Social Science courses, are not directly vocational. Still, employers highly VALUE the competencies and skills acquired through philosophy. Why? Because learning organisations need employees with strong *critical and analytical skills*. They need people with the ability to turn their minds *creatively and constructively* to new topics. They value clarity and precision in the formulation of views, rigour in reasoning, and the ability to make and justify judgements about the acceptability of competing ideas.

- Philosophy is NECESSARY to develop one's thinking (analytical and synthetic) skills.
- Philosophical understanding is VITAL to all areas of study at university.
- Philosophy EMPOWERS those career students in psychology, law, languages, criminology, communications, the sciences, teaching, theology, etc.

**IS PHILOSOPHY TRANSDISCIPLINARY?** Philosophical methodologies (basic logic) underlie all disciplines. Close historical connections exist between philosophy and the development of all scientific disciplines. Therefore students find that Philosophy courses combine well with their other majors.

**THE BROADER MEANING OF PHILOSOPHY?** The philosopher ultimately remains the student of wisdom. The subject-matter of philosophy is the *practical dialogue* between humans. This dialogue focuses on the basic concepts that make life understandable, and without which life would have little meaning, e.g.: concepts of reality, knowledge, morality, truth and beauty. Philosophy is the life-long quest for the meaning of the World, our and other Selves, the Transcendent.

**PHILOSOPHY FOR ALL?** Philosophy is nobody's private possession: it belongs to everyone who has the courage to think and do for him-/herself. Can anyone afford, in the long run, to miss this wonderful opportunity to start learning about philosophizing?

### OUR MOTTO:

*are to think & do for yourself!*

## Under-graduate studies

PHL111/E/F: Introduction to Philosophy  
PHL112/E/F: Elementary Logic  
PHL116E: Logic and Ethics for Law Students  
PHL123/E/F: Ancient Greek Philosophy  
PHL125/E/F: Ethics  
(NB: African Philosophy is offered as PHL 325 now)

PHL211/E: Renaissance & Enlightenment Philosophies  
PHL212/E: Philosophical Anthropology  
PHL223/E: Kantian Philosophy  
PHL224/E: Social & Political Philosophy

PHL311: Philosophical Hermeneutics  
PHL312: Contemporary Philosophical Trends  
PHL323: Philosophy of Science and History  
PHL 324: Ethics (last offering 2010)  
PHL325: African Philosophy (offered as from 2011)

## Post-graduate studies

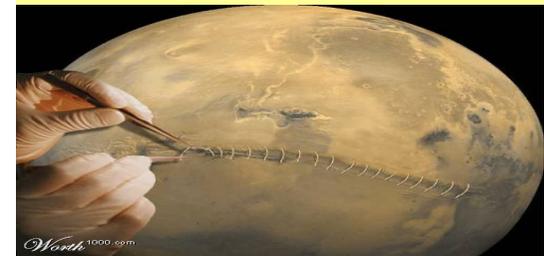
### Philosophy Honours programme courses:

PHL501: Detailed study of a contemporary philosopher or group of philosophers  
PHL502: Detailed study of a philosophical problem  
PHL503: Theory and methodology of science  
PHL504: Critical analysis of a recognized philosophical work  
PHL505: Detailed study of a period in the history of philosophy  
PHL506: Extended essay on an approved philosophical topic

### Philosophy Masters & Doctoral Studies:

Research on a topic of philosophical significance.

**EXAMPLES OF PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS:** Why is there life at all, rather than nothing? What can we know about the world? How should we live our lives? What is the meaning of life? Is there any purpose to suffering? What does it mean to be human? What is consciousness? Does God exist? What is the value of friendship? Who are we?



Staff are actively engaged in different areas of research. We believe in teaching the results of our own research.

See Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Prospectus and the PHILOSOPHY WEBSITE for information about the department, staff members, academic programmes, philosophy colloquiums, etc.

<http://www.ufh.ac.za/departments/philosophy/>



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

Do you ever STOP  
and think about  
what, how and why  
you think ?

“A company of porcupine  
crowded themselves together one  
cold winter’s day so as to profit  
by one another’s warmth and  
so save themselves from being  
frozen to death. But they soon  
felt one another’s quills, which  
induced them to separate  
again. And now, when the  
need for warmth brought  
them nearer together again,  
the second evil arose once  
more. So they were driven  
backwards and forwards  
from one trouble to the  
other, until they had discov-  
ered a mean distance at  
which they could most tol-  
erably exist.”



Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860)

“To teach how to live  
*with* uncertainty,  
yet without being  
paralyzed by hesitation,  
is perhaps the chief thing  
that philosophy can do.”  
~Bertrand Russell



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Join the UFH Philosophy  
Students Association

Offices: E-London: Rooms 125, 126, 127 Gasson Building,  
Alice: Rooms L27, L128, L29, New Arts Building  
Notice boards close to offices  
Head of Department: Professor A. Olivier  
Also visit us at:  
<http://www.ufh.ac.za/departments/philosophy/>

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ALICE TIMETABLE GROUPINGS: PHL100:B, PHL200:G, PHL300:D  
ALICE venue: Room L81 New Arts (ground floor)  
EAST LONDON venues: Ashton Chubb, Colosseum M2, or as  
announced

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Offers that  
money  
can't buy:

wisdom  
temperance  
courage  
justice

PHILOSOPHY

@

FORT HARE



“The unexamined life is not  
worth living” Socrates (469-399 BC)