

Which courses should I take?

The natural place to begin is **GEX1015 Life, the Universe, and Everything**. This exposure course acquaints you with major areas of philosophy through discussion of selected topics such as moral responsibility, the ethics of eating meat, political authority, freedom of will, the existence of God, consciousness, and artificial intelligence. **GEX1014 Logic** and **GEX1012 Effective Reasoning** are geared towards giving you general purpose thinking skills that are useful in a variety of disciplines.

Beyond the above, the department offers courses in **all of the major subfields** (e.g., value theory, metaphysics, epistemology, mind, language, logic, philosophy of science, comparative) and historical courses in **Chinese, Indian, and European** traditions.

Almost all of the 2000-level courses **do not require special background**, and are accessible and potentially profitable to non-majors as well as majors. In addition, a number of philosophy courses are recognized as fulfilling major requirements in **European Studies, Global Studies, Chinese Studies, Malay Studies, Political Science, and Psychology**, or fulfilling requirements in various **multidisciplinary minors**.

For more information, please see the department's website. Our faculty members are also happy to provide individual guidance on which courses to take, based on your personal interests.

Contact

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Department Website (top QR code):
<http://www.fass.nus.edu.sg/philo/>
Department Blog (middle QR code):
<http://blog.nus.edu.sg/philo/>
Philosophy Interest Group (bottom QR code):
<https://t.me/nusphilosophy>



Full Time Faculty

A/Ben Blumson: Aesthetics. Metaphysics. Philosophy of language. Philosophy of mind.

A/John Holbo: Wittgenstein. Kierkegaard. Plato. Nietzsche. Philosophy of literature.

Dr. Ethan Jerzak: Epistemology. Philosophy of Language. Philosophical Logic.

Dr. Lee Wang Yen: Philosophy of science.

A/Floy Hui Chieh: Early Chinese philosophy. Greek philosophy. Moral and political philosophy.

Dr. Daryl Ooi: Early Chinese philosophy. Early Modern philosophy.

A/P Michael Pelczar: Metaphysics. Philosophy of mind. Philosophy of language.

Dr. Lavinia Piccolo: Philosophy of Logic. Philosophy of Mathematics. Metaphysics. Philosophy of Language.

Dr. Abelard Podgorski: Epistemology. Moral philosophy.

Pro. Qu Hsueh Ming: Early Modern philosophy. Hume.

Mr. Jonathan Y. H. Sim: Early Chinese philosophy. Philosophy and Computing.

A/P Neiladr Sinhababu: Moral philosophy. Nietzsche. Philosophy of mind and action.

Dr. Moonyoung Song: Aesthetics. Ethics.

A/P Saranindra Nath Tagore: Continental philosophy. Indian philosophy and religions.

A/P Tang Weng Hong: Philosophy of probability. Epistemology.

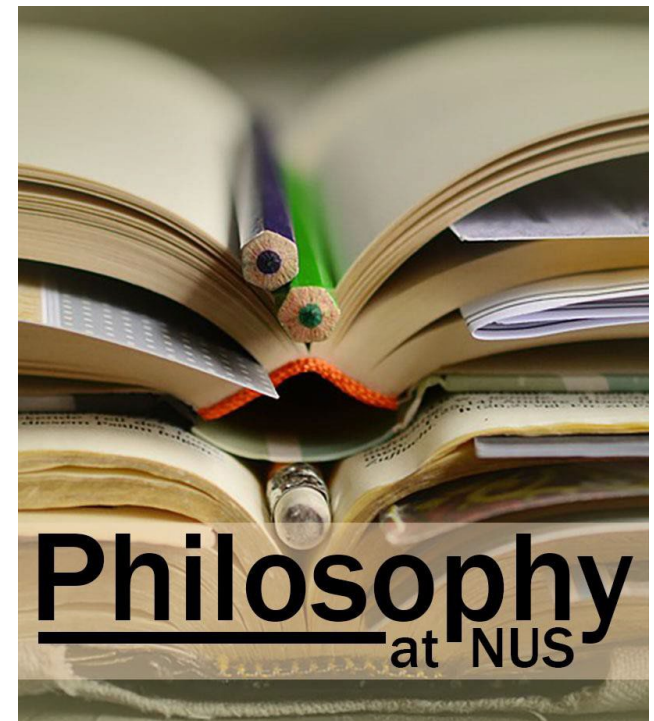
Dr. Daniel Waxman: Ethics. Logic. Metaphysics. Philosophy of Mathematics. Political Philosophy.

Dr. Isaac Wilhelm: Metaphysics. Philosophy of Physics. Philosophy of Science.

Dr. Neil Barton: Philosophy of Mathematics. Mathematical Logic. Epistemology. Philosophy of Science.

Dr. Zachary Goodsell: Philosophy of Mathematics. Epistemology and the Philosophy of Probability. Logic. Philosophy of Language. Ethics. Metaphysics. Decision Theory

Mr. Melvin Ng: Metaethics. Epistemology.

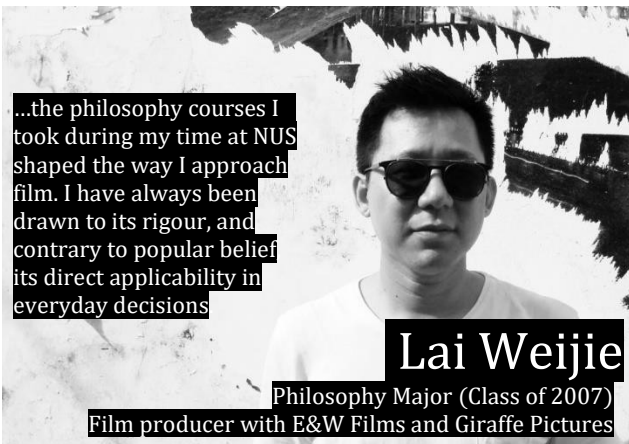


What is Philosophy?

Philosophy is the rigorous study of questions that the natural and social sciences are not equipped to answer on their own. Such questions arise in almost every sphere of human endeavor, including, but not limited to, medicine, law, politics, economics, physics, biology, mathematics, psychology, and computer science.

Why study Philosophy?

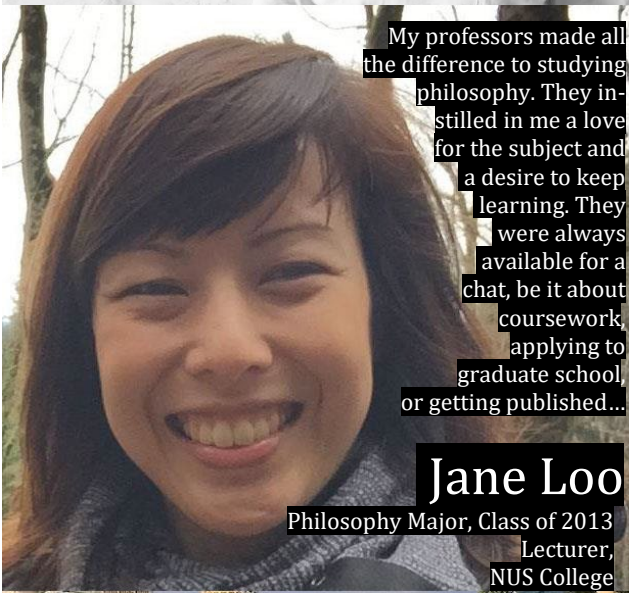
You should study philosophy if you're interested in the kinds of questions that philosophers ask. Philosophy is the only discipline in which you are likely to encounter people making a serious, competent effort to find out whether the conscious mind is something over and above the physical body, or whether the government has the right to force people to pay for things they don't want, or whether the world described by physics has any room for freedom of will, or whether God exists, or whether it is morally acceptable to kill animals for food, or whether anything besides pleasure is good for its own sake.



...the philosophy courses I took during my time at NUS shaped the way I approach film. I have always been drawn to its rigour, and contrary to popular belief its direct applicability in everyday decisions

Lai Weijie

Philosophy Major (Class of 2007)
Film producer with E&W Films and Giraffe Pictures



My professors made all the difference to studying philosophy. They instilled in me a love for the subject and a desire to keep learning. They were always available for a chat, be it about coursework, applying to graduate school, or getting published...

Jane Loo

Philosophy Major, Class of 2013
Lecturer,
NUS College



Philosophy showed me the different ways that people think, and how to take their values and their views seriously. Such imagination is necessary for understanding the complexity of our society, which is essential for a government aiming to create conditions in which we can all flourish.

Shaun Oon

Philosophy Major (Class of 2008)
Assistant Director/Strategic Planning,
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

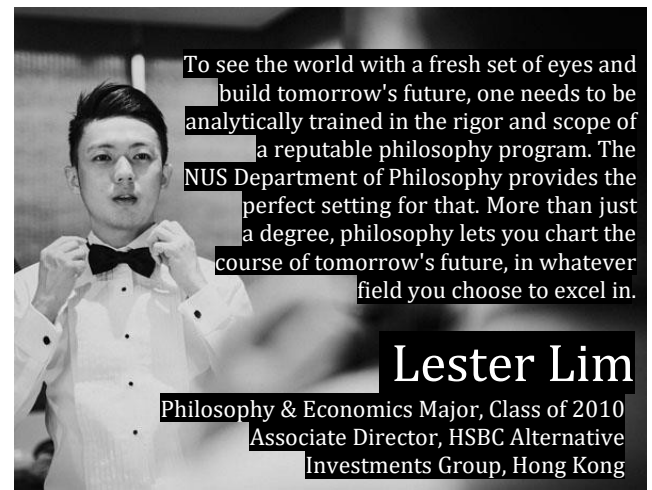
The Philosophy Major

The best reason to major in philosophy is that you like it more than any other subject: don't choose the major, let the major choose you. Human nature being what it is, you're most likely to work hard—and so get good grades and graduate with a high class of honours—if you major in a subject that you genuinely enjoy. If your dream is to become a psychologist or a chemist, you should enroll in psychology or chemistry, assuming you have an aptitude for those subjects. But if philosophy excites you more than anything else, you should seriously consider majoring in it. A good degree in philosophy is more impressive than a lackluster degree in some other subject.

Philosophy is also a good choice for a second major or a minor. This is because many philosophy courses complement study in other fields, such as economics, history, mathematics, physics, political science, and psychology. A good number of philosophy courses are also counted as fulfilling requirements in various other major and minor programs.

The best way to find out what it's like to study philosophy at NUS is to talk to our current majors. They are more than happy to answer your queries. You can see more information at <http://www.facebook.com/nusphilo/>.

Popular culture sometimes portrays philosophers as starry-eyed mystics with no concern for life's practical demands. This is completely inaccurate. In fact, Philosophy graduates excel in a variety of fields and consistently outperform others on examinations for admission to advanced degree programs. The graduates of the NUS Department of Philosophy are no exception. You can hear from some of our recent alumni on this page.



To see the world with a fresh set of eyes and build tomorrow's future, one needs to be analytically trained in the rigor and scope of a reputable philosophy program. The NUS Department of Philosophy provides the perfect setting for that. More than just a degree, philosophy lets you chart the course of tomorrow's future, in whatever field you choose to excel in.

Lester Lim

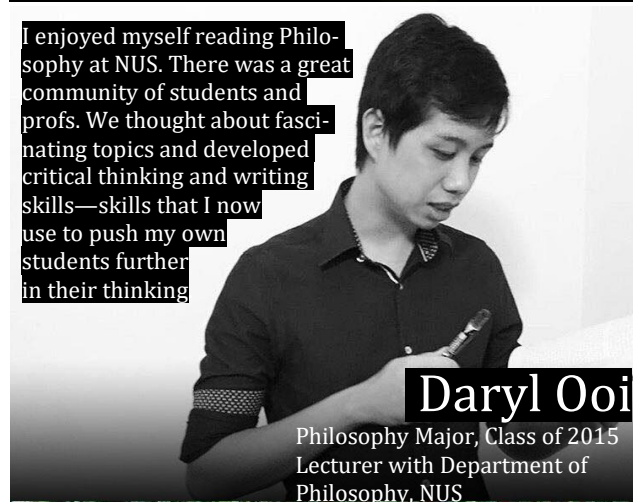
Philosophy & Economics Major, Class of 2010
Associate Director, HSBC Alternative
Investments Group, Hong Kong



We can never be good enough—we're always a product in the making.

Lim Qing Ru

Philosophy Major, Class of 2008
Cofounder of Zopim*
(*acquired by Zendesk, a NASDAQ-listed company)



I enjoyed myself reading Philosophy at NUS. There was a great community of students and profs. We thought about fascinating topics and developed critical thinking and writing skills—skills that I now use to push my own students further in their thinking

Daryl Ooi

Philosophy Major, Class of 2015
Lecturer with Department of
Philosophy, NUS



Philosophy as a major has trained me to see the forest beyond the trees in my professional decisions. It taught me to take a step back and question the why instead of reacting immediately. Besides, introducing myself as a Philosophy graduate is a great conversation starter

Annaling Chua

Philosophy Major, Class of 2011
Talent Acquisition & Learning
Development Specialist, en world group