What is philosophy?

Philosophy may be defined as the critical and systematic analysis of problems which are fundamental, ultimate, and very general.

Perennial philosophical questions include: What is “truth”? Do gods exist? What is the nature of reality? What is the meaning and purpose of human life? What is the nature and basis of morality?

Because philosophical inquiry involves the cultivation and application of critical reasoning skills, philosophy is a useful course of study for aspiring lawyers, doctors, scientists, engineers, businesspeople, and others whose career requires problem-solving abilities.

Everyone is a philosopher.

You are doing philosophy and have been doing it most of your life. So if you are already “doing” philosophy, what’s the point of a course dedicated to its study?

The first goal in a course is to help you appreciate and understand the various approaches other intelligent human beings have taken to addressing philosophical problems throughout history. The second goal is to help you refine, sharpen, and cultivate your philosophical skills through analysis of philosophical theories, concepts, ideas, and problems.

The Philosophy Club

Students at MSU are encouraged to join this student-led organization. The group:

- promotes interest in, understanding of, and appreciation for philosophical inquiry on campus;
- promotes open and respectful inquiry, self-reflection, and concern for the world among students;
- provides opportunities for students to discuss philosophical issues in a relaxed extracurricular environment.

What are students saying?

"The philosophy program at MSU offers its students an excellent grounding in historical philosophy along with opportunities to study areas such as ethics, political philosophy, and existentialism. I consider my philosophy minor to be the most personally and intellectually enriching part of my education at MSU."

- Sam Underwood

"I came to Midwestern without aspirations to study philosophy, but after meeting Dr. Jun and the rest of the philosophy students I learned how rewarding it can be. I plan to use my experiences at Midwestern State University to prepare myself for graduate studies in philosophy!"

- Jonathan Henderson
Mission

The mission of the Philosophy Program at Midwestern State University is:

• to cultivate a historically informed understanding and appreciation for the philosophical enterprise;
• to foster critical reading, writing, and thinking skills through the examination of philosophical problems;
• and to promote a spirit of self-reflection and concern for the world among our students.

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”

– Socrates (c. 399 BCE)