

Philosophy



If you love arguments and big ideas, philosophy is for you.

You will rigorously explore our deepest beliefs and biggest questions about reality, about human nature, about what we can be sure of, about how we should treat one another and why. At Westmont, philosophy is the practice of faith seeking understanding, emboldened by the promise to the prayerful that “the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:7). Belong to a community that fosters both steadfast Christian commitment and no-holds-barred grappling with the puzzling questions that thoughtful people of every era have asked.

SELECTED COURSES

- Philosophical Perspectives
- Critical Reasoning and Logic
- Medieval Philosophy
- Formal Logic
- Modern Philosophy
- Ethics
- Philosophy of Religion
- Intellectual Virtue and Civil Discourse

CAREER PATHS

- Law (Philosophy majors consistently score best on the Law School Admission Test.)
- Business (Philosophy majors score among the best on the Graduate Management Admissions Test.)
- Medicine
- Christian Ministry
- Tech
- Editorial Work
- Social Work
- Any profession that requires an advanced degree (Philosophy majors score best on the Graduate Records Exam.)

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



MARK NELSON, PH.D.

Mark Nelson studies ethics, epistemology and philosophy of religion. His recent publications include: "Epistemic Tension and Epistemic Duty", "What the Utilitarian Cannot Think", and the "Law of Noncontradiction: Oh Yeah and So What?".



JAMES TAYLOR, PH.D.

Jim Taylor studies epistemology, philosophy of religion, and Christian apologetics. His recent publications include *Introducing Apologetics: Cultivating Christian Commitment and Learning for Wisdom: Christian Education and the Good Life*.



DAVID VANDER LAAN, PH.D.

David Vander Laan studies metaphysics and philosophy of religion. His recent articles include "The Paradox of the End without End," "Creation and Conservation," and "The Concord of Molinism with Modal Voluntarism."



OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD

- Westmont's Europe Semester
- Westmont in Northern Europe
- Westmont's England Semester

ALUMNI

Amy Seymour '07 is an assistant professor of philosophy at Fordham University specializing in metaphysics. She earned her master's degree in philosophy at Northern Illinois University, where she also received the Best Philosophy Graduate Student of the Year award in her second and last year. She then went on to the University of Notre Dame where she received her doctorate in philosophy. She researches metaphysical questions such as: "Can statements about the future really be true in advance of the events to which they refer? If they can, is this compatible with belief in human free will?"

Sharyna Scott '10 graduated from Northeastern University School of Law and operates her own law practice in San Diego, California. She specializes in business, estate planning and immigration law. She says, "I love solving complex problems in my areas of practice and seeing the look of relief on my clients' faces when we've finished their legal process successfully. I have used the critical thinking skills I learned during my time at Westmont in law school and in my practice. Learning about and balancing different ideas, laws and policies with people's personalities and behaviors is a large part of what I do."



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