

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
- Epistemology
- Philosophy of Language

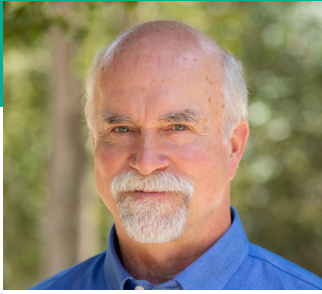
CAREER PATHS

- 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
- Technology
- Editorial Work
- Social Work
- Any profession that requires an advanced degree (Philosophy majors score best on the Graduate Records Exam.)



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SANTA BARBARA

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



MARK NELSON, PH.D.

Monroe Professor of Philosophy studies ethics, epistemology and philosophy of religion. His recent publications include: "The New Atheism as Political Theology?", "Epistemic Tension and Epistemic Duty", and "What the Utilitarian Cannot Think."



DAVID VANDER LAAN, PH.D.

Studies metaphysics and philosophy of religion. He was awarded the 2022 Alvin Plantinga Prize for his article "Satisfaction in the End without End." His other recent articles include "The Timing of Divine Conservation: Pushes, Nudges, and Merry-Go-Rounds."



STEPHEN ZYLSTRA, PH.D.

Studies medieval and early modern philosophy, and also teaches bioethics and environmental ethics. His publications include "Spinoza, Emanation, and Formal Causation" and "Spinoza on Action and Immanent Causation."

OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD



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

ALUMNI

Chapman Canlis '22, received the Kenneth Monroe Award for demonstrating superior academic achievement in the classroom. He now serves as executive assistant to the CEO at Screenable, bringing discernment and dedication to his work in the tech industry.

Maddy Simonsen '23, double-majored in philosophy and religious studies at Westmont and was awarded a Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant, which supported her participation in Westmont's Mayterm trip to Turkey. She now works as a customer success manager at Webconnex, helping clients navigate solutions with clarity and purpose.



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westmont.edu/philosophy