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

“Philosophy is... a discipline that, in the strict sense, employs a method of critical, reflective and logical enquiry.”

Henry Odera Oruka

“Make no mistake, the question, “what is philosophy?” is a deeply philosophical question... Diverse practitioners will offer new ideas and alternative methods of philosophical investigation. Philosophy simply cannot survive as a discipline without the continuous creation of new ideas. Hence, it is in the best interest of the field to encourage practitioners who can aid in the survival of the discipline.”

Kristie Dotson

“The essence of philosophy in the analytic tradition is that - analysis. Although the impetus for philosophizing may arise from particular countries and even from diverse cultural and social contexts within one country, philosophy itself transcends divisions of nation or country.”

Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze

“The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.”

Steve Biko

FREE YOUR MIND!

“What is at the root of the philosophical style is a desire to give a general and systematic account of our thought and experience, one that is developed critically, in the light of evidence and argument.”

Kwame Anthony Appiah

OFFICES

E-London: Rooms 125, 100, 101,102 Chris Hani Building, Alice:
Rooms L27, L128, L29, New Arts Building
Staff: Dr F Maj (Head of Department),
Prof A Olivier, Dr S Terreblanche, Dr R Oelofse, Dr C Hobden
Adjunct Professor: Prof S Swartz
Research Fellows: Dr JM Lamola, Prof R Bamford
Contract lecturers: Ms S Baleni, Mr T Mtyalela, Mr S Ndwandwe,
Mr R Roos
Also visit us at: http://www.ufh.ac.za/faculties/social-sciences/departments/philosophy
For enquiries please email fmaj@ufh.ac.za

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”
Socrates
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 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, education, 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 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?

Undergraduate studies

PHL111/E/F: Introduction to Philosophy
PHL112/E/F: Elementary Logic
PHL126/E/F: Classical problems in Philosophy
PHL125/E/F: Ethics
PHL116E: Logic and Ethics for Law Students
PHL215/E: Theories of knowledge
PHL216/E: Theories of Human Nature
PHL227/E: Metaphysics
PHL224/E: Social & Political Philosophy
PHL311/E: Philosophical Hermeneutics
PHL312/E: Contemporary Philosophical Trends
PHL323/E: Philosophy of Science
PHL325/E: African Philosophy

Post-graduate studies

Philosophy Honours programme courses:

PHL501E: Detailed study of a contemporary philosopher or group of philosophers
PHL502E: Detailed study of a philosophical problem
PHL503E: Theory and methodology of science
PHL504E: Critical analysis of a recognized philosophical work
PHL505E: Detailed study of a period in the history of philosophy
PHL506E: 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 something 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? etc.

See Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Prospectus and the PHILOSOPHY WEBSITE and FACEBOOK for information about courses, philosophy colloquiums, etc.

http://www.ufh.ac.za/faculties/social-sciences/departments/philosophy
https://www.facebook.com/Department-of-Philosophy-University-of-Fort-Hare

Dare to think and do for yourself