

***Reflecting on Your***

***Department’s Climate & Culture***

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| **Department/School:** Department of Philosophy |
| **Vision:** The Philosophy Department at UTRGV seeks to develop a philosophically engaged life in our students, our colleagues, the Rio Grande Valley, and the world. We aim to help students, faculty, and our various communities make better sense of the world and decide how to better live in it. |
| **Mission:**  As professional teacher-scholars, the Philosophy faculty provide the core of a liberal arts education by teaching students to read carefully, think critically, write clearly, reason systematically, and wrestle with some of the most difficult and important questions of human existence. Philosophy contributes to UTRGV’s core curriculum by offering courses that develop critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and social and personal responsibility. We do this by introducing students to the ethical, political, epistemic, and religious philosophies that have shaped history; by training students in logical, critical, and evaluative methods of reflection; and by applying these methods to discuss and practice personal growth, the betterment of their communities, and the transformation of the world. The Philosophy Department also provides an indispensable service to other programs and majors, including Biology, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Engineering, Mathematics, Social Work, Physics, Mexican American Studies, and Computer Science. Advanced courses in philosophy systematically and critically address questions about the human condition, aesthetics, ethics, society, politics, and the foundations of history, law, medicine, science, and mathematics. |

**Profile**

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| **Majors:** BA in Philosophy, Minor in Philosophy and Religious Studies |
| **Graduate Programs:** We offer graduate courses in service of other graduate programs. |
| **Students*** **Number of Students:** 101 majors in PHIL; 134 Minors in PHIL,
* **Characteristics:**
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| **Faculty*** **Number of Faculty:** 11 tenured and tenure-track faculty members, 4 3YR lecturers, 4 OYAs
* **Ranks:** 2 Professors, 7 Associate Prof., 2 Assistant Prof 8 Lecturers
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| **Campus Program Offering**Our primary campus is Edinburg but we have a course rotation on the Brownsville campus that makes it possible for students to Major and Minor in Philosophy. Two TT and one 3YR Lecturer are based in Brownsville. We will add our new 3YR faculty member in Brownsville (search currently underway). |
| **Stats & Highlights:** |

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| **Success Stories/ Bragging:*** Two Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award Recipients in Philosophy faculty since 2016
* Philosophy courses offered both Bilingually and fully in Spanish.
* Robust student mentoring to provide them with opportunities in research, to present their work at conferences, to network, to attend summer research opportunities in preparation for graduate studies.
* Philosophy majors have been admitted to the following law school during the last three years :UT Austin, Texas A&M, Houston, Texas Tech, Cornell, Saint Mary’s, SMU,
* Philosophy majors have been admitted to the following graduate schools during the last three years: Univ CA Riverside Graduate School of Marketing, UTRGV Graduate School of Business, UTSA School of Agriculture, UTRGV MA in Social Work, American University School of Philosophy and Public Policy, The New School of Public Engagement PhD Program, UT Arlington Master of Public Administration, Michigan State University PhD in Political Science, Univ of Oregon PhD in Philosophy.
* Three Philosophy majors have been admitted into the UTRGV School of Medicine
* The UTRGV Philosophy Department is listed in the influential  Pluralist’s Guide to Philosophy
* Programs [https://my.vanderbilt.edu/pluralistsguide/](https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmy.vanderbilt.edu%2Fpluralistsguide%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cgregory.gilson%40utrgv.edu%7Cd5e11dd483174440055d08d75908e7a9%7C990436a687df491c91249afa91f88827%7C0%7C0%7C637075767092921212&sdata=Aa9nhE5g%2BKtiy3Chf%2B%2FayF3z9o4dp1a8B8pUa5m3FHg%3D&reserved=0) as a “Recommended Program in Latin American/Latinx Philosophy”
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| **Traditions:*** Gloria Anzaldúa Speaker Series in Philosophy
* Philosophy for Everyone Public Philosophy Lectures. This semester we are offering six public lecturers at the IMAS. Last Year we offered seven public philosophy at the McAllen Public Library.
* Philosophy Open House in the Clark Gallery Fall Semesters
* All majors are required to engage in a semester-long research experience that culminates in a student research conference.
* Philosophy Pedogogy Group meets three or four times during each semester
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| **Mantra/Slogan:**  Philosophy: where questions are more important than answers. |