Dr. Antonio Calcagno

An Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Dr. Calcagno is currently exploring three areas of research: recent European philosophy, Renaissance philosophy and social and political thought. At the moment, he is working on the relationship between various notions of law and their connections to different social and political relations within the framework of Early German phenomenology (1900-1945). By mining the rich philosophical works of thinkers such as Edmund Husserl, Gerhart Husserl, Edith Stein, Adolf Reinach, Max Scheler, Gerda Walther and Dietrich von Hildebrand, he hopes to present a phenomenological account of law and community - including an analyses of such structures as personhood, we-consciousness and we-intentionality, communal and social relations and the State.

Dr. Hunter Brown

Dr. Hunter Brown holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from McMaster University and a Ph.D. in Theology from The University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto. He is cross-appointed in Philosophy and Religious Studies at King’s. He specializes in the philosophy of religious and classical pragmatism, especially the philosophy of William James. His publications cover a wide range of topics, often involving the intersection of philosophy and religion.
Why Study Philosophy?

Philosophy begins and ends in wonder; it requires passion, hard work and it is a lot of fun. There is only one way to “know thyself,” as Socrates said, and that is to ask yourself where you stand on some basic human questions. For Kant, to ask “What is the Human Being?” is to ask three basic questions: “What can I know? What ought I do? For what may I hope?” But, as Marx said, we do not just want to interpret the world, “the point is to change it.” Philosophy is not an empty debating-club; it is a militant project of profound social and political transformation.

Philosophical Preparation for Life

Besides a richer and more meaningful life, philosophy is considered an excellent training for law, politics, business, medicine, science and computer science: it requires sound critical reasoning skills as well as good analytical training in order to understand and formulate arguments. Philosophy helps develop and sharpen the skills necessary for entering many professional faculties as well as developing professional careers. In fact, in recent studies, the most successful business and societal leaders all have training in Philosophy. Do your own research: Google “value of a philosophy degree” and see how highly valued it is as a foundation for just about anything you want to do.

King’s Unique Approach to Philosophy

The Department of Philosophy at King’s offers students with the opportunity to form themselves through a study of the tradition of philosophy and to do philosophy in a community of students and scholars. We have special programmes in Continental philosophy as well as Philosophy and Religion. You can study just philosophy or, as many students do, combine it with just about any other program in a double major – which will help enrich your interests in another domain.

First Year Philosophy

The Department of Philosophy has a wide choice of first year courses that have been designed by the full-time faculty who teach them to reflect their personal approach to philosophy and their research interests. Our Faculty are both engaged teachers as well as achieved scholars; and they bring these qualities together into the classroom at all levels.

- 1362E - What is Philosophy?
- 1363 - Being Human: Philosophical Perspectives (NOTE: this is a non-essay course)
- 1360E - The Great Human Questions We All Ask
- 1361E - Finding Happiness: A Journey Through Philosophy
- 1305F/G - Questions of the Day (NOTE: this is a half-year course)

Third Year Study in Leuven, Belgium

Students in the Honours Majors in Philosophy have the opportunity to complete their third year of philosophy at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. Students are able to study philosophy in English at Belgium’s largest and most important university which also happens to be the world’s oldest surviving Catholic university. Located outside of Brussels, Leuven is the ideal location to study and live in Europe.

What Students Have to Say

“For me, philosophy has developed my ability to think critically about issues that matter to me. I have learnt to grapple with various perspectives and thus how to understand the problems that concern me in new ways. This ability to think critically is essential for all innovative problem solving and is essential to a successful life. Whatever path you end up taking in life, it will be enriched with a philosophical mind.”

Kate Lawson
4th Year, Philosophy

“Simply put, philosophy has been life altering. Every class has challenged me and changed the way I see the world, my position in it, even what it means to be. Philosophy is very diverse, touching on every aspect of life; so everyone will discover something important and interesting. Ultimately, philosophy never ends; there is always more to learn, a new way of looking at things, new connections to be made. However, the best part is that it continues to work on you, making you into you.”

Heather Lamour
4th Year, Philosophy