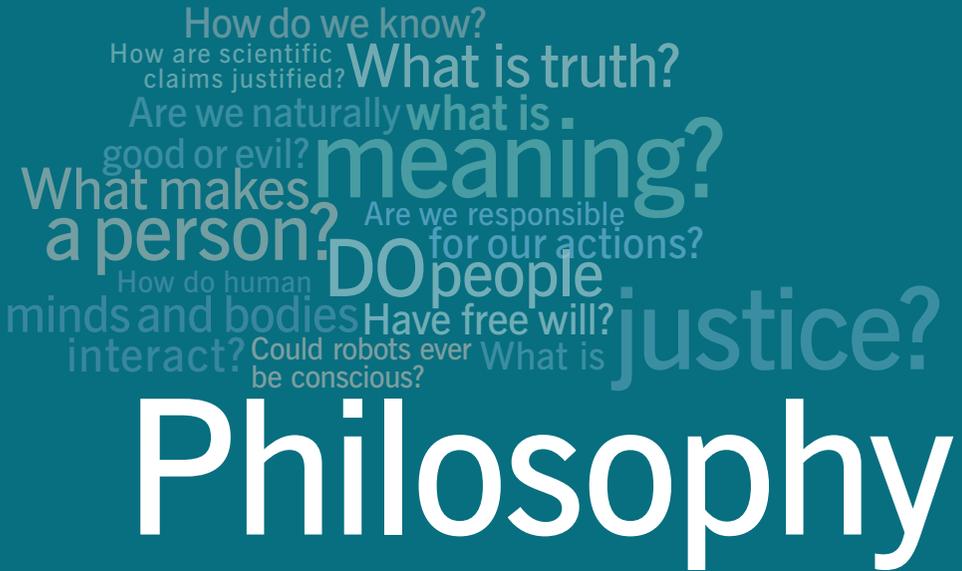


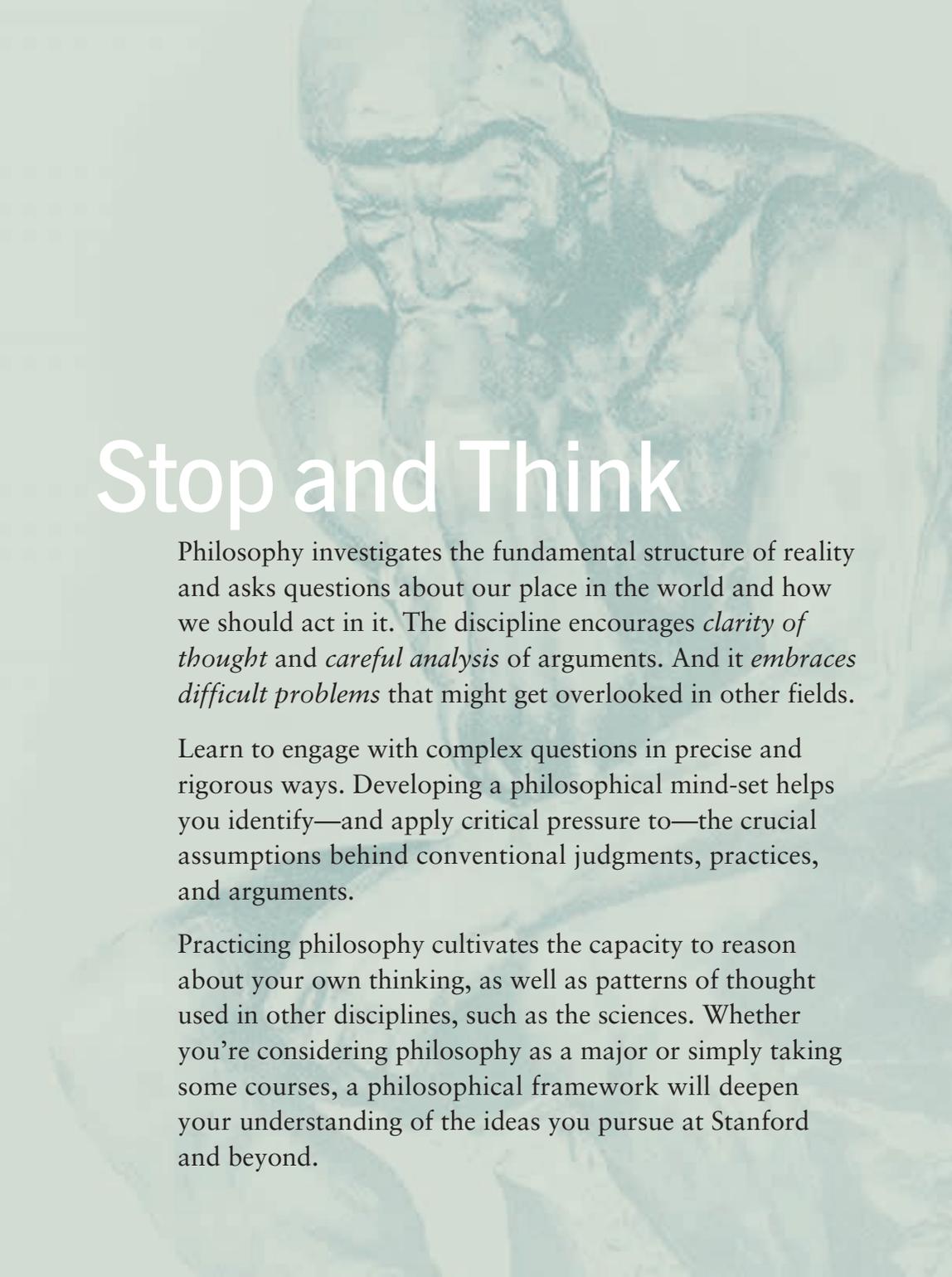
Stanford University



Are there goods that money can't buy or shouldn't?

Sometimes it seems like everything is for sale. Often, markets allocate goods effectively, bringing buyers and sellers together on mutually agreeable terms. But what about exchanges that tend to make us hesitate—child labor and organ sales, for instance?

In her book, *The Moral Limits of the Market*, Stanford philosophy professor Debra Satz explores what makes particular markets morally objectionable and examines what's at stake for political and social equality if these “noxious” markets continue to expand around the globe. Her research is just one example of how Stanford philosophers are addressing big questions—including some of the most pressing ones for society today.



Stop and Think

Philosophy investigates the fundamental structure of reality and asks questions about our place in the world and how we should act in it. The discipline encourages *clarity of thought* and *careful analysis* of arguments. And it *embraces difficult problems* that might get overlooked in other fields.

Learn to engage with complex questions in precise and rigorous ways. Developing a philosophical mind-set helps you identify—and apply critical pressure to—the crucial assumptions behind conventional judgments, practices, and arguments.

Practicing philosophy cultivates the capacity to reason about your own thinking, as well as patterns of thought used in other disciplines, such as the sciences. Whether you're considering philosophy as a major or simply taking some courses, a philosophical framework will deepen your understanding of the ideas you pursue at Stanford and beyond.

Start Here

*Ready for a lively introduction to the theories and techniques of contemporary philosophy? Begin building that critical foundation with our gateway course, **Philosophy 1**.*

*But don't stop there. Continue investigating fundamental questions and honing your skills in courses ranging from **Greek Philosophy** and **Existentialism** to **Probability and Law** and **Justice**.*

A Full Spectrum

Our department provides opportunities to explore traditional core areas of philosophy and a diverse array of subfields.

- Theory of Knowledge
- Political Theory
- Philosophy of Language and Mind
- History of Philosophy
- Philosophy of Science
- Logic
- Ethics and Theory of Action
- Philosophy of Literature



Strong Connections

At Stanford, we believe that philosophy ought to be *engaged* and *applied*. It should address philosophical questions as they arise in the real world and within the practices of other disciplines. This tradition is reflected in our department's collaboration with a wide range of interdisciplinary programs and initiatives, including Ethics in Society, Symbolic Systems, Global Justice, History and Philosophy of Science, Feminist Studies, and the Philosophy and Literature initiative.

A Successful Future

Critical reading. Analytical thinking. Sound argumentation. Although philosophy may be considered the oldest academic discipline, studying it has powerful currency in today's world. A philosophical framework equips students with the skills to succeed in a wide variety of fields including law, business, teaching, and medicine. Stanford philosophy alums run investment firms, lead nonprofit organizations, and work on biomedical ethics issues for government agencies.



Engage **the public**

Thousands of listeners tune in regularly to *Philosophy Talk*, a nationally syndicated radio show that celebrates the value of the examined life. Each week, the two host philosophers—Stanford professors Ken Taylor and John Perry—invite listeners to join them in conversation on a wide variety of issues ranging from popular culture to our most deeply held beliefs about science, morality, and the human condition. As part of the show’s “crack research team,” Stanford students help make philosophy accessible to the broader public.

“Many of the ethical problems that I encounter in neonatology are the same ones I first considered as an undergraduate philosophy major. Theory has been translated into practice. The questions are no less difficult to answer now than they were when I first considered them, but at least I have an intellectual background and framework for addressing them.”

Dr. David Stevenson, '71

Professor in Pediatrics and Vice Dean at Stanford School of Medicine

“Academic philosophy is sometimes criticized for being too theoretical, but it has had a far more pervasive effect on my life than anything else I studied at Stanford. From ethics to logic to political theory, the philosophy courses I took helped me develop answers to big questions about what and how I should be. The conversations I had with my philosophy professors and peers have driven my decisions about what I eat, where I work, and how I spend my time.”

Alexander Berger, '11

Research Analyst at GiveWell, an independent, nonprofit charity evaluator

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY
School of **Humanities**
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