

## Departmental Contact Information

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**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

## The Philosophy & Literature Ph.D. Program

*The Purdue University Special Doctoral Program in Philosophy and Literature offers an interdisciplinary course of study on the graduate level leading to the Ph.D. degree. The program encourages the interplay between philosophy and literature currently animating discussions in such areas as social and critical theory, feminism, hermeneutics, narrative, semiotics, psychoanalysis, aesthetics, African-American studies, and cultural studies. In consultation with faculty, each student designs a plan of study to accommodate specific goals and interests. The program seeks to foster critical and independent thought while providing cohesive professional training.*

### Courses and Requirements

A master's degree in either English, Philosophy or Foreign Languages (a relevant foreign language) is a prerequisite. Applicants should have taken the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE).

Doctoral students must complete with a grade of B or better five graduate courses in English or FLL and five graduate courses in Philosophy. Each student has one Home Department (Philosophy, English or FLL), normally based on a student's master's degree, and one correlative department for their concentration (Philosophy/English or Philosophy/FLL). Students may choose from more than 100 graduate courses in the departments of English, FLL and Philosophy, and also arrange to take courses in other departments and programs. The sole required additional course is Philosophy/English/FLL 576, Philosophy and Literary Theory. Course choices are otherwise left free so that each student may follow his or her own interests, while also constructing a coherent program. In addition, there is a requirement of competence in at least one foreign language, which can be satisfied by course work or exam.

In general, for all Philosophy and Literature Ph.D. students special competence is required in at least three areas:

1. a traditional field of the chosen literature or language (e.g., English, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese or by permission, a classical literature or language such as ancient Greco-Roman literature or languages)
2. a traditional field of Philosophy
3. a special field combining the chosen literary or language focus and Philosophy

All Philosophy and Literature Ph.D. students are required to take:

- a total of eleven graduate courses. Of these, one must be Philosophy/English/FLL 576
- three area examinations:  
Preliminary Examination in the Philosophy\*  
Preliminary Examination in Literature (either English or FLL)\*\*  
Prospectus Examination (dissertation Examination) in a combined field of the dissertation\*\*\*  
one foreign language requirement\*\*\*\*

### Cost and Financial Support

For information on tuition and fees, see *The Graduate School Bulletin*

(<http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/faculty/resources/>). Financial support is available in the following forms: University Fellowships – one- and two-year stipends (depending on fellowship) and remission of tuition and most fees. Graduate Assistantships – stipend, remission of tuition and most fees, renewable with merit raises (teaching assistantships are also available from the Departments of English, Foreign Languages & Literatures and Philosophy). Interdisciplinary Lynn Fellowships may be available to qualified incoming students – one year stipend and remission of tuition and most fees for the first year Ph.D. students at Purdue followed by three years of guaranteed teaching assistant support.

### Applications

The first round of admissions and funding will begin after January 10. Complete your application by **January 10th**. The Graduate School at Purdue accepts only electronic applications. Candidates should apply on-line at <http://www.purdue.edu/GradSchool/admissions/apply.html> and be sure to select a home department (either Philosophy, English or Foreign Languages and Literatures). Students who seek to enter the program must be admitted by the admission committee of the Philosophy and Literature Ph.D. program; each student is admitted with a Home Department designation (Philosophy, English or FLL). Candidates should realize that the time required to earn a doctoral degree in literature and philosophy may exceed that normally required to obtain a traditional literature or philosophy degree.

*You have the choice to be considered for more than one program. If your first choice is Philosophy and Literature, then select under "Select Your Proposed Graduate Major" [Philosophy & Literature].*

*If your second choice is the Department of Philosophy then select under "Enter Second Program of Interest Choice" [Philosophy] (At this prompt, please identify either Philosophy, English or Foreign Languages & Literatures) according to the area of your M.A. degree.*

*Select an Area of Interest. Available for selected programs only. Not all areas of interest are available for both Master's and Ph.D. degrees. At the drop-down box, enter either Philosophy, English or FLL)*

## Faculty

**Elena Coda**, Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Specialist in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Italian literature and comparative literature; Hermetic poetry (Campana, Ungaretti, Montale); modernism; futurism and the historical Avant-garde; modern and postmodern city in literature, Simmel, Benjamin, Tafuri, Cacciari; essayistic narrative. Co-editor of *The Promised Land: Italian Poetry from 1975 to the present*. Author of articles on Futurism, Svevo, Slataper and Michelstaedter. Currently writing a book on Scipio Slataper.

**Adrian Del Caro**, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and a prominent Nietzsche scholar.

**Geraldine Friedman**, Associate Professor of English and member of the Women's Studies Committee. Research and teaching interests in Romanticism, Sensibility, poststructuralism, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century women's literature, theory and history of gender and sexuality, psychoanalysis, comparative literature, and Althusserian Marxism. Author of *The Insistence of History: Revolution in Burke, Wordsworth, Keats and Baudelaire* and articles on Romanticism and Althusser. She is currently at work on two book projects: *Female Romantic Love and Friendship in the British Cultural Imaginary, 1760-1840* and *Symptoms of Marxism: Althusser and the Post-World War II Conjunction in France*.

**Sandor Goodhart**, Associate Professor of English and Jewish Studies. Specialist in dramatic literature (Greek tragedy and philosophy, Shakespeare, modern drama), literary theory and criticism (structuralism and poststructuralism, the history of critical theory), and Jewish Studies (Hebrew Bible, modern Jewish thought, Holocaust studies). Author of *Sacrificing Commentary: Reading the End of Literature*; and *Reading Stephen Sondheim*. He is at work on two books: *Moebian Nights: Literary Reading After Auschwitz* and *The Tears of Esau: Reading, Revelation, and the Prophetic*. He is a member of the editorial boards of *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Contagion*, and *Shofar, An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*.

**Leonard Harris**, Professor of Philosophy; non-resident Fellow, Harvard University, University Distinguished Visiting Professor, William Paterson University. Specialist in social and political philosophy, contemporary history of philosophy and aesthetics, with particular emphasis on African American philosophy. Editor of *The Philosophy of Alain Locke: Harlem Renaissance and Beyond, Critical Pragmatism of Alain Locke, Philosophy Born of Struggle, Children in Chaos*; co-editor of *American Philosophies, Exploitation and Exclusion*; and has authored a number of papers in various journals.

**Jacqueline Mariña**, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Religious Studies program. Specialist in philosophy of religion, Kant, 19th century and aesthetics. Author of papers on Aristotle, Kant, Schleiermacher, and on issues intersecting faith and philosophy. She is currently editing *The Cambridge Companion to Schleiermacher*.

**William L. McBride**, Arthur G. Hansen Distinguished Professor of Philosophy. Specialist in social, political, and legal philosophy and in 19th- and 20th-century continental philosophy. Author of *Fundamental Change in Law and Society; Hart and Sartre on Revolution; Social Theory at a Crossroads; The Philosophy of Marx; Sartre's Political Theory; Social and Political Philosophy; Philosophical Reflections on the Changes in Eastern Europe; From Yugoslav Praxis to Global Pathos*; editor of *Sartre and Existentialism*, 8 volumes; and co-editor (with Martin Beck Matušík) of *Calvin O. Schrag and the Task of Philosophy After Postmodernity*.

**Floyd Merrell**, Professor of Spanish. Specialist in literary theory, semiotics, and Spanish-American literature. Author of numerous books, including *Deconstruction Reframed: Unthinking Thinking; Jorge Luis Borges, Mathematics and the "New Physics"; Peirce's Semiotics Now; Simplicity and Complexity: Pondering Literature, Science; Sobre las culturas y civilizaciones lationamericanas; Signs, Science, Self-Subsuming (Arti)Facts; Living Learning, Learning Living: Signs, Between East and West; The Mexicans: A Sense of Culture; and Sensing Corporeally: Toward a Postmodern Understanding*.

**Arkady Plotnitsky**, Professor of English; Director of Theory and Cultural Studies. Specialist in theory and cultural studies, emphasis on critical and cultural theory, British and

European romanticism; continental philosophy; modernism and postmodernism; relations among literature, philosophy and science. Author of *Reading Bohr: Physics and Philosophy; Reconfigurations: Critical Theory and General Economy; In the Shadow of Hegel; Complementarity: Anti-Epistemology After Bohr and Derrida; The Knowable and the Unknowable: Modern Science, Nonclassical Thought, and the "Two Cultures"*.

**Patrice Rankine**, Associate Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Classical and comparative literature: the relationship between the Classics and African-American studies.

**Patrocínio Schweickart**, Professor of English and Women's Studies. Research and teaching specialist in feminist and critical theory, history of criticism, women writers (19th- and 20th-century British and American) and literature and science, women's studies and cultural studies. Editor of the scholarly journal of the National Women's Studies Association (1991-97). Author of the landmark essay, "Reading Ourselves: Towards a Feminist Theory of Reading" (1984) and of numerous other essays; co-editor and co-author (with Elizabeth Flynn) of *Gender and Reading: Essays on Readers, Texts, and Contexts*.

**Charlene Haddock Seigfried**, Professor of Philosophy and American Studies; Director of the Philosophy and Literature Ph.D. Program, member of the Women's Studies Committee. Specialist in American philosophy (19th and 20th century), pragmatism, and feminist theory, with special interests in pragmatist feminism, William James, John Dewey, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and Jane Addams. Author of *Chaos and Context: A Study of William James; William James's Radical Reconstruction of Philosophy; and Pragmatism and Feminism: Reweaving the Social Fabric*. Editor of *Feminist Interpretations of John Dewey*.

**Daniel W. Smith**, Associate Professor of Philosophy. Specialist in contemporary Continental philosophy, aesthetics, 17th-Century rationalism, Nietzsche and philosophy and literature. Author of articles on various topics in European philosophy, and is currently completing a book on the work of Gilles Deleuze. Translator of three books: Gilles Deleuze, *Essays Critical and Clinical* (with Michael Greco); *Pierre Klossowski, Nietzsche and the Vicious Circle*; and Isabelle Stengers, *The Invention of Modern Science*. Co-editing a forthcoming collection of the writings of Pierre Klossowski

**Christopher Yeomans**, Assistant Professor

of Philosophy, whose special interests include the philosophy of Hegel.