



Project WHY?

Experiential Learning Opportunity: Philosophy with Children Applied Humanities Course

If you are interested in applying your philosophical education, engaging in community outreach, gaining experience teaching philosophy, and working with primary school children, you may be interested in taking **HUMAN 4W03: Project WHY? - Philosophy, Pedagogy, & Community**.

Taught by Dr. Sikkema, an accredited specialist philosophy teacher with The Philosophy Foundation, this course will explore some fundamental issues in the philosophy of education, train students in the philosophical enquiry method, and, in collaboration with McMaster Children & Youth University ([MCYU](#)), provide students with the opportunity to facilitate philosophical enquiry sessions in primary schools in Hamilton. We believe doing so is important for the following reasons.

- 1) it is respectful to youth as persons:** to engage youth in philosophical inquiry is to treat them as active participants in learning rather than passive recipients of information.
- 2) it is intrinsically valuable:** philosophical enquiry provides young people with the tools to enquire into the constituent elements of the good life and awaken reflective and critical consciousness.
- 3) it is instrumentally valuable:** philosophical enquiry provides young people with the tools to think deeply, broadly, and thoroughly, to think carefully, logically and creatively, and to think respectfully, responsibly and open-mindedly; skills that are highly convertible and applicable in their eventual vocational, civic and environmental responsibilities.

If you are interested in this unique opportunity to practice philosophy, and are either a 4th year or graduate philosophy student, please consult the [course syllabus](#) and send the following directly to Dr. Sikkema (sikkej@mcmaster.ca) by or before **September 12**: a completed [HUMAN 4W03 application form](#) and a short paragraph explaining why this course is of interest to you. Enrolment will be limited to 12 - 15 students.

Since philosophy is the art which teaches us how to live, and since children need to learn it as much as we do at other ages, why do we not instruct them in it? - Montaigne