

**Hi there, I'm Caroline! A senior philosophy student at Appalachian State University, originally from Chapel Hill, North Carolina. When I first transferred to App, I thought I wanted to pursue Political Science. During my first semester, however, I took an introductory philosophy class with Dr. Jack Kwong called "Mind, Knowledge and Reality". This class changed my course of action as I felt both challenged and empowered in my own ideas in relation to the course material, a feeling I had not yet experienced in an educational setting. That's one aspect of philosophy that I love; being able to have meaningful discussion with those that share similar interests and goals. Furthermore, I was able to pursue meaningful discussions outside of the classroom as I learned how to critically think about the world we live in.**



**Studying philosophy in itself is inspiring because it has provided me a space in which I can explore and indulge in my own curiosities. Namely, being able to practically theorize and analyze the ways in which people live and experience living through an intersectional lens. Through studying philosophy at app state, I have found empowerment through classes rooted in feminist theory, critical race theory, and psychoanalysis as these aspects of philosophy seek to practically apply knowledge to areas that are generally underrepresented in both academia and everyday life. It feels meaningful to me, and has therefore created a sense of authentic fulfillment, something I didn't know I could find in higher education. I am endlessly grateful for the philosophy department at app state, and if you're looking to have a meaningful experience here, I highly recommend choosing philosophy as your field of study.**