



Academic Year 2019-20

Introduction to Philosophy: Meaning, Morality, and Art

Venue	Conway Hall, Red Lion Square
Day and Time	Monday 5pm to 7pm
	or Tuesday 5pm to 7pm
Term Dates	20th January - 23rd March 2020
No. of Meetings	10
Module taught by	Jane O'Grady, Mark Fielding
Fee	£135 per term

Entrance Requirements

The course is open to anyone with an interest and enthusiasm for the subject.

Teaching Methods

The module will be taught using a combination of lectures, reading extracts of key texts, and class discussion. For those wishing to prepare for the University of London external examination there will, in addition, be set essays (two per term). There will be individual feedback on each assignment, together with an opportunity to produce additional, short, pieces of work in order to aid understanding of particular arguments, as necessary. As this preparation involves extra teaching, an additional fee will be charged.

Course Description

This course focusses on the key areas of Philosophy as they have come to be identified over the history of the subject. The intention is to prepare students for the University of London International Programme examination 'Introduction to Philosophy' and we broadly follow the content of *Reading Philosophy: Selected Texts with a method for Beginners* (Routledge, 2002). Subjects covered include: Moral Philosophy, Freedom, Political Philosophy, and Aesthetics. The course is open to all students, regardless of whether the University of London examination is entered for.

Module Content

Week 1

The Beginnings of Value: Socrates on Virtue

Tutor: Mark Fielding

Week 2

Aristotle and the Virtues

Tutor: Mark Fielding

Week 3

What are Moral Dilemmas? E.J. Lemmon

Tutor: Mark Fielding

Week 4

The greatest good for the greatest number? J.S. Mill on Utilitarianism

Tutor: Mark Fielding

Week 5

What is it to treat people equally?: Williams on Equality

Tutor: Mark Fielding

Week 6

Needs and Distribution: Nozick's objections to Williams

Tutor: Mark Fielding

Week 7

Taking pleasure in the presentation of pain: how to solve the paradox of Tragedy.
Accounts by David Hume and Susan Feagin.

Tutor: Jane O'Grady

Week 8

How Free are We? Free Will and Determinism

Tutor: Jane O'Grady

Week 9

Strawson, Freedom, and Resentment

Tutor: Jane O'Grady

Week 10

Round-up of some topics -- Virtue, Maximising happiness, Tragedy, and Freedom

Tutor: Jane O'Grady

Suggested readings:

No additional readings are necessary, but it's sometimes helpful to read a number of different discussions of the same problem to assist in understanding. Not all Philosophers are also clear writers!

Here are a few suggestions:

Introducing Philosophy: A Text with Integrated Readings, Robert C. Solomon
OUP 2015 (the older editions are still available and at a much lower cost!)

Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy, Simon Blackburn. OUP 2001

The Problems of Philosophy, Bertrand Russell. Cosimo 2007

What Does It All Mean?: A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy, Thomas Nagel.
OUP 1989

Western Philosophy: An Anthology, (Ed.) John Cottingham. Wiley-Blackwell 2008