



Philosophy as a New Minor Subject

Details for the Academic Year 25/26

Why take this New Minor Subject?

As a Philosophy Minor, you will explore **fundamental questions** while gaining **marketable skills**. Philosophers explore questions like: What am I? What can I know? What is justice? Is there a God? They approach these questions by carefully clarifying the concepts involved and analysing the logical connections between them, while also taking account of available empirical evidence. In this way, we aim to sharpen our thinking about these important topics. Philosophy students have the opportunity to develop carefully their own ideas about these important questions. Along the way, they gain important skills in creative thinking, logical analysis, and clear and concise written and spoken communication. These skills are in demand in fields like business, law, and public policy, making philosophy an immensely *practical* second subject.

What will I learn?

As a New Minor Subject student in Philosophy, you will receive a thorough grounding in the history of Western philosophy, from ancient Greece to the 20th century. At the same time, you will examine the philosophical problems and theories being debated today, including controversial questions about ethics, religion, science, and the nature of reality. If you choose to continue to study philosophy in your final year, you will be able to choose among smaller seminar-style modules that fit your interests, and address in greater depth topics like ethical theory, philosophy of religion, or ancient Greek philosophy.

What will I do?

As a philosophy student, you will discuss and debate fundamental questions of basic human interest, and you will gain important skills in creative thinking, logical analysis, and communication that can assist in your future endeavors in any field.

How will this be assessed?

Most assessment in the Department of Philosophy is by essay. This includes both continuous assessment essays and essay-format exams. In your essays and exams, you will engage critically with the philosophical texts, ideas, and arguments you've encountered, using philosophical tools to defend your own views on a variety of questions. In marking philosophy essays, we value clear, concise, logically connected arguments, whether or not we agree with the conclusions. This type of writing is one of the primary skills you will learn as a philosophy student.

Some modules may also have shorter writing assignments, class presentations, or other forms of assessment.

Contact Hours and Indicative Workload

Please contact the department of Philosophy for further information.

Contacts

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