

SE u3a Forum Summer School

Monday 2nd – Thursday 5th September 2024

University of Chichester



Introduction to Philosophy

Maximum 16

Philosophy is usually referred to as a love of wisdom. Another way of thinking about philosophy is that it is a particular 'way of thinking' about subjects such as ethics, thought, existence, time, meaning and value.

You have been doing philosophy your whole life, but you may not have thought that you have been doing it. That 'way of thinking' involves responding to things, reflecting on them, reasoning about them and re-evaluating what we think. The aim is to arrive at a better understanding of things.

By exploring Philosophy, we hope to think better, to act with greater wisdom, and so live a more fulfilling and meaningful life.

Summer School Course – 2024

Monday **Introduction to Philosophy:** What is Philosophy? Why study it?
Key branches of philosophy (ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, etc.).

We will consider, explore and discuss **some aspects** from the following areas of Philosophy, during the week.

- **Knowledge and Reality:** What can we know? How do we know it? Exploring different theories of knowledge (empiricism, rationalism, scepticism).
- **Ethics and Morality:** What is right and wrong? How should we live? Examining different ethical frameworks (utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics).
- **The Meaning of Life:** What is the purpose of life? What makes a life good? Exploring existentialist, religious, and humanist perspectives.
- **Free Will and Determinism:** Do we have free will? Or are our actions predetermined? Examining the debate between free will and determinism.
- **Political Philosophy:** What is the role of government? What are just laws? Exploring different political ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, socialism).
- **Philosophy of Mind:** What is the mind? What is the relationship between mind and body? Exploring dualism, materialism, and functionalism.
- **Philosophy of Language:** How does language work? What is the relationship between language and thought? Exploring different theories of language (structuralism, post-structuralism).
- **Aesthetics and the Arts:** What is beauty? What is the purpose of art? Exploring different theories of art and aesthetics.
- **Science and Philosophy:** What is the nature of science? How does science relate to philosophy? Exploring the philosophy of science and its impact on scientific progress.
- **Religion and Philosophy:** What is the nature of religious belief? Can faith and reason coexist? Exploring the relationship between religion and philosophy.
- **The Future of Philosophy:** What are the major challenges facing humanity? How can philosophy help us address them? Exploring contemporary philosophical issues and their relevance to our lives.

For further information contact the tutor

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