



PARTNERS ACADEMIC SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

Syllabus for Philosophy

Subject Area

This syllabus is for PARTNERS applicants seeking to progress to the degrees of:

- V500 BA Hons Philosophy
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Aims

To allow students to demonstrate their potential to succeed in specified degree programmes by showing a grasp of entry-level subject-specific knowledge, understanding, cognitive and subject-specific skills.

Learning Outcomes

A good knowledge and understanding of ...

- The Summer School will focus on thinkers whose political and ethical philosophies are grounded in competing accounts of human nature. As well as being introduced to some important thinkers - including Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke and Marx - students will start to understand how philosophers are concerned with careful argument and conceptual clarification.
- By contrasting and debating different philosophical approaches to the human, students will also begin to see how philosophers argue and how to take a more critical approach to the reading and analysis of philosophy. Throughout, students will also be asked to consider how philosophical ideas might inform our understanding of contemporary social life and ethical debates.

The ability to apply this knowledge and critical understanding to...

- Throughout the Summer School, students will be expected to read excerpts of key texts from the European philosophical tradition. Their reading will be guided by lectures that respond to the texts and they will be required to engage in seminar discussion and debate.
- During the formative assessment, they will be asked to demonstrate their ability to reconstruct and analyse a thinker's argument, while developing their own responses to it.

Competence in...

- Critical engagement with philosophical texts and ideas.
 - The reconstruction, analysis and evaluation of argument.
 - Conceptual clarification.
 - Independent engagement with philosophical texts.
 - Critical thinking.
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Summer School Syllabus

1. Content:

* The Summer School will focus on ethical and political philosophy. However, as we will be thinking about how a range of thinkers - including Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and Marx - ground their ethical and political claims in accounts of human nature, we will also be considering metaphysical and ontological questions. By the end of the week, students will have learnt about some key ideas and debates in modern political and ethical philosophy. More importantly, however, they will also start to understand how philosophers think and how students of philosophy should approach their arguments and their ideas.

2. Teaching Methods:

* Monday and Tuesday will take place in person. Sessions will include lectures, seminar discussions and time for guided independent reading. The remainder of the week will take place online. This will include watching pre-recorded and live lecture material, and taking part in online seminars.

3. Purpose / Objectives:

* The Summer School will provide prospective students with an excellent grounding in philosophical debates and methods. Students will be able to reconstruct, analyse and evaluate philosophical arguments; think critically about philosophical ideas; understand how philosophers produce and clarify concepts; gain experience in independent reading of philosophical texts; and in participating in philosophical debate

Activities for Personal Study

When students arrive, they will be supplied with a range of materials for guided independent study. This will also be available via Canvas. Throughout the week, time and space will be made available for students to complete this as part of the timetable but additional readings will also be made available if students want to learn more outside of class.

On-Campus Teaching:

Sunday 29th June (PM), Monday 30th June & Tuesday 1st July

Online Teaching:

Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th (AM only) July

Formative Assessment Details

1000-word essay that responds to the material taught during the summer school
More details will be given during the event by your Academic Strand Lead.

Hand-in Method

Digital

Assessment deadline

Friday 11th July – 3pm