

Welcome to Philosophy!

Philosophy questions the basis of human knowledge, conduct, and value. Studying philosophy at NUIG allows for a rigorous and disciplined investigation into fundamental questions under the guidance of internationally recognized scholars. Students learn to comprehend difficult material quickly and accurately, to think clearly and critically, and to write and speak persuasively. This is an excellent training for post-graduate study in law, medicine, social service, politics, philosophy or other related academic fields. Furthermore, in today's world of fast-paced change, business leaders and management teams are increasingly looking to philosophy students for their ability to think flexibly, critically and creatively.

We teach and do research in all the main philosophical subject-areas and historical periods. However, we offer something special besides. Our Discipline has developed strength in philosophical work that attends closely to the impact of globalization and new technologies. The transformations associated with these have profound ethical, political and aesthetic implications, and impact also on questions of personal, cultural, and national identity, as well as on debates concerning knowledge and metaphysics.

Our strengths are in the following areas:

- Ethics, Bio-ethics, and professional ethics.
- Problems of violence, community, and the exploitation of resources
- Philosophy of art and culture - including environmental and especially visual aesthetics
- Cross-cultural philosophy East-West - especially Chinese and Japanese
- Philosophy of science and technology
- All aspects of existentialism, phenomenology, and hermeneutics (especially Nietzsche, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Levinas and the interpretation of religious experience)
- The History of Irish Thought
- Philosophy with and for children

Please come along to our live on-line presentations and question and answer sessions during Orientation week. Our sessions will take place on Thursday 23rd September, 11-12; and Friday 24th September, 2-3. Details of how to access those sessions, will be made available on the College of Arts, Social Sciences, & Celtic Studies web site.

Important links

All information below can be accessed via the following web-link:

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/history-philosophy/disciplines-centres/philosophy/undergraduate-courses/>

A University video on how to approach on-line learning can be found here:

(Insert web-link)

A University video on COVID-19 etiquette can be found here:

(Insert web-link)

A presentation by the James Hardiman Library can be found here:

(Insert web-link)

We offer Philosophy at undergraduate level as part of a BA (Joint-Honours) degree. Visit NUI Galway's [Courses Page](#) for information on how to apply, entry requirements and assessment.

Current Students

First Year

Please make sure you are familiar with our [policies on Essay deadlines and penalties](#).

First Year Modules 2021/2022

- Introduction to Practical Ethics
- Critical Thinking & Persuasive Writing

- Philosophical Questions & Issues
- Introduction to the History of Philosophy

Timetables:

1st Arts Semester One 2021/2022

Lectures:

There will be a combination of lectures, live Q&A sessions and online content.

On campus:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>Room</u>
Monday 5-6	Introduction to Practical Ethics	PI108	Dr. R. Hull	Anderson Theatre AC 002
Tuesday 4-5	Introduction to Practical Ethics	PI108	Dr. R. Hull	O'Flaherty Theatre AC 001
Friday 2-3	Critical Thinking & Persuasive Writing	PISK1100	Dr. N. Tosh	IT 250 (First floor)
Wednesday 2-3	Philosophical Question & Issues	PI120	Dr. L. Elvis	Kirwan Theatre SC 001

Tutorials (in person and online):

In addition, students will have two weekly hours of on campus or online tutorials, one for Practical Ethics (PI108), the other for Philosophy Skills (PISK1100 and PI120). These consist in completing a structured programme of tasks in break-out groups and larger tutorial groups. There will be four weekly slots to choose from for PI108 tutorials, and six weekly slots to choose from for Philosophy Skills.

Practical Ethics tutorials:

slots on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday (to be confirmed)

Skills tutorials:

slots on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday (to be confirmed)

Sign-up for tutorial groups will be on Blackboard.

Overall workload:

- 6 weekly live or online sessions (4 on campus Lecture/ Q&A sessions, 2 tutorials) plus recorded materials for general BA (20 ECTS/first year)
- 5 weekly live online sessions (3 on campus Lecture/ Q&A sessions, 2 tutorials) plus recorded materials for Connect Programmes (15 ECTS/first year)

Philosophy Discipline

1st Arts Semester Two 2021/2022

<u>Time</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>
Monday 5-6	Introduction to the History of Philosophy	PI107	TBA	Dr. O. Richardson
Tuesday 4-5	Introduction to the History of Philosophy	PI107	TBA	Dr. O. Richardson
Friday 2-3	Critical Thinking & Persuasive Writing	PISK1100	TBA	Dr. N. Tosh
Thursday 9-10	Philosophical Questions & Issues	PI120	TBA	Dr. N. Tosh & Prof. F. O Murchadha

The approach to teaching taken in this semester will be subject to review, pending Public Health advice. As a default we are currently planning on continuing the delivery as in semester 1.

Staff Representative for First Years:

Dr. Richard Hull for Semester One: richard.hull@nuigalway.ie

Dr. Gerald Cipriani for Semester Two: gerald.cipriani@nuigalway.ie

Student Representatives for First Years: TBA

: **Email address:**

: **Email address:**

: **Email address:**

Dates of Semesters (provisional)

Semester One: Orientation: 22nd September 2021 – 26th September 2021

Teaching: 27th September 2021 – 17th December 2021

Semester Two: Teaching: 10th January 2022 – 1st April 2022

Field Trips: 4th April 2022 – 8th April 2022

Semester 2 Exams: 19th April 2022 – 6th May 2022

Blackboard

Familiarity with Blackboard is essential. All recorded lectures will be posted on Blackboard and all live on-line teaching sessions will be accessed via Blackboard (or sometimes, via Zoom). Course pages on Blackboard will also contain all notes, PowerPoint slides, further reading and communications from lecturers. In addition, sign-up for tutorials will take place on this platform. So, learning how to use Blackboard as a new student will be vital to our successful delivery of a meaningful interactive learning experience.

Please click on the link below to become more familiar with our Virtual Learning Environment:

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/information-solutions-services/services-for-students/blackboard/students/>

Compulsory/ Optional Courses:

All courses are compulsory for B.A. students (Joint Honours). B.A. Connect students do not have to take PI120 Philosophical Questions and Issues.

Schedule of Courses:

Compulsory				
Code	Course	Semester	ECTS	Examination
PI108	Introduction to Practical Ethics	1	5	Essay and/or alternative form of assessment.

PI107	Introduction to History of Philosophy	2	5	Exam.
PISK1100	Critical Thinking & Persuasive Writing	1 & 2	5	Continuous assessment & take-home assignment.
PI120	Philosophical Questions and Issues	1 & 2	5	Essay/Essay

Individual Course Details:

Introduction to Practical Ethics

Code	Semester	Contact hours / weekly	ECTS
PI108	1	2 (Tutorials not included)	5

Lecturer: Dr. R. Hull

Course description: This course (Practical Ethics) provides a rigorous examination of a wide range of contemporary ethical issues. Students will learn about the ethical theories that tend to inform our practical decision making. Those theories will then be applied to a number of contemporary issues. These may include genetic selection, pre-natal testing, assisted death, social inequality and world poverty. Readings will be recommended for each topic via Blackboard.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials.

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is by written essay during the first semester and/or an alternative form of assessment.

Core texts:

Mizzoni, J. *Ethics: the basics*, Blackwell 2010.
La Follette, H, ed., *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2006.
Singer, P. *Practical Ethics*, Cambridge University Press, 2011.
Wolff, J. *An introduction to moral philosophy*, Norton, 2018.

Critical Thinking & Persuasive Writing

Code	Semester	Contact hours / weekly	ECTS
PISK1100	1 & 2	2 (Tutorials not included)	5

Lecturer: Dr. N. Tosh

Course description: Successful humanities students are sophisticated consumers and producers of arguments. In this key skills module students will learn to distinguish arguments from other forms of persuasion; to map the argumentative structure of a complex text; to spot fallacious patterns of reasoning; and to plan and compose a strong argumentative essay. Since these skills are not topic-specific, illustrations will be drawn from a range of academic disciplines. No knowledge of philosophy will be assumed.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials.

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is by continuous assessment during the first semester and a take-home assignment in semester two.

Core texts:

The course is self-contained and there is no set text. However, for extension reading students may wish to consult the following:

Fisher, A. (2011). *Critical Thinking: An Introduction*.
Bowell, T. and Kemp, G. (2010). *Critical Thinking: A Concise Guide*.

Philosophical Questions & Issues

Code	Semester	Contact hours / weekly	ECTS
PI120	1 & 2	2 (Tutorials not included)	5

Lecturers: Dr L. Elvis (Semester One)
Dr. N. Tosh & Prof. F. O Murchadha (Semester Two)

Course description: This course aims to introduce students to a diversity of philosophical approaches to the problem of meaning and value. Issues covered will include some of the following: justice, poverty, love, death, totalitarianism, genetics and human life, human rights, free will, violence and the meaning of life.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials. It is team taught by different lecturers each year. More specific readings will be advised at the beginning of each semester.

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is by an essay at the end of the first semester and an essay at the end of the second semester. Mid-term assignment may be required.

Selected texts:

Law, S., *The Philosophy Gym: 25 Short Adventures in Thinking*
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Various editions
Bretall, R. (ed.), *A Kierkegaard Anthology*
Plato, *Symposium*, various editions
De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
Barry, B., *Democracy, power and justice*
Glover, J., *Choosing Children*
Singer, P., *A Companion to Ethics*
Wolff, J., *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*
John Locke, "Of Identity and Diversity" (II. Xxvii), in *Essay on Human Understanding*

Introduction to History of Philosophy

Code	Semester	Contact hours / weekly	ECTS
PI107	2	2 (Tutorials not included)	5

Lecturer: Dr. O. Richardson

Course description:

The course will introduce students to key thinkers and ideas in the history of western philosophy. Since ancient philosophy is so central to this history, the first half of the course is devoted to some of its most important achievements in the work of the Pre-Socratics, Plato, and Aristotle. Attention is then turned to aspects of medieval philosophy, and the great rationalist and empiricist traditions (represented by Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz, and Locke and Hume, respectively). Lectures will also be offered on Kant, Nietzsche, and the analytic and phenomenological traditions

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials.

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is by written exam at the end of second semester. Mid-term assignment may be required.

Core texts:

Copleston, *History of Philosophy*, Image Publishing
Guthrie, W. K. C., *The Greek Philosophers from Thales to Aristotle*, Methuen
Johnston, D., *A Brief History of Philosophy*, Continuum
Plato, *Republic*, Penguin
Russell, B., *History of Western Philosophy*, Routledge
Solomon, R. and Higgins, K., *A Short History of Philosophy*, Oxford
Stumpf, S. E., and Fieser, J., *Socrates to Sartre and Beyond*, McGraw Hill

Contacts

Philosophy Administrator: María Bernal Navarro
maria.bernal@nuigalway.ie

Teaching Staff:

Dr Gerald Cipriani, Cert., Cert.Ed., Pg.CRM, MA, Ph.D.

(on leave, Semester 1, 2021/22)

Philosophy of culture, aesthetics,

ethical phenomenology, contemporary French philosophy,

dialogical philosophy East-West, East Asian philosophies.

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Dr Tsarina Doyle, BA, MA, Ph.D.

Undergraduate Teaching, Introduction to the History of Philosophy, Philosophy of the Enlightenment, German Idealism

Room 101, Philosophy (Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Rd)

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E-mail: tsarina.doyle@nuigalway.ie

Dr. Lucy Elvis, BA, M.A., Ph.D.,

Philosophies of Art and Architecture, Aesthetics, Hermeneutics, Gadamer and Community Philosophy - especially Philosophy for Children (P4C)

Room 202 Philosophy (Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Rd.)

Email: lucy.elvis@nuigalway.ie

Dr Heike Felzmann, Dr. Phil, Dipl. Psych., MA

Bioethics, information ethics, research ethics, moral philosophy,

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Dr Richard Hull, BA (Staffs), B.Phil. Oxon., Ph.D. (Keele)

(On leave, Semester 2, 2021/22)

Applied Ethics, Bioethics, Moral Philosophy, Political Philosophy, Disability, Nietzsche

Room 104, Philosophy (Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Rd)

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Dr Felix O Murchadha, BA, MA, Dr. Phil. (Wuppertal)

Phenomenology, Philosophy of Time, Philosophy of Religion, Heidegger, Gadamer, Ricoeur

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Dr. John O'Reilly, B.A., MA, Ph.D.

Current Teaching: Philosophy of Mind; History of Irish Thought;
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Dr. Orla Richardson B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Philosophy of Science, Epistemology and Ethics. She is one of the co-ordinators of the P4C (Philosophy for Children) project at NUIG and is a Philosophy for Children (P4C Level 1 teacher (SAPERRE-approved). She is also an instructor on the NUIG Youth Academy programme.
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Dr Nick Tosh, M.Sci., Ph.D. (Cantab)

Philosophy of science, philosophy of language, philosophy of history
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Dr Nora Ward, BA., MA., Ph.D.

Environmental Ethics with particular focus on environmental identity, ecofeminism and ecomodernism. She is also interested in public philosophy and the role and place of philosophical work outside of the academy.
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