

Philosophy Ethics & Religion @NCC

Do you enjoy?

- Taking part in discussions and debates
- Listening to other people's views
- Learning about unusual ideas from both atheists and religious thinkers
- Looking for answers when there are no set right or wrongs

If so Philosophy, Ethics and Religion @ NCC is the course for you!

This course offers the opportunity for inquisitive individuals to discuss some of the ultimate questions facing humanity today, delving into key philosophical arguments from the views of Plato and Aristotle. It also questions God's existence, the problem of evil in the world and explores belief in relation to key atheists such as Richard Dawkins, Bertrand Russell and Freud.

Students are encouraged to interact and take part in lessons through group and paired work but independent study is also crucial - below you will find some useful clips, readings, films & activities that will help prepare your mind for studying philosophy, ethics and religion.

If you have any burning questions please contact me on a.bartlett@nelson.ac.uk

Soul, Mind & Body

Ontological argument

Nature & Attributes of God

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Cosmological argument

Problem of evil

Religious Language



Teleological argument

Religious Experience

RELIGION & ETHICS



Conscience

Situation ethics

Business ethics

Sexual ethics

Utilitarianism

Euthanasia

Kantian ethics

Natural Law

The Buddha

Buddhist philosophy

Buddhism in the Far East & West

DEVELOPMENTS IN BUDDHIST THOUGHT

Samsara

Taking refuge

Buddhism & Activism



Four Noble Truths

Meditation

Buddhism & Gender

PHILOSOPHY



- 'The Man Who Asked Questions: Socrates and Plato' by Nigel Warburton, *A Little History of Philosophy*
- The Blind Watchmaker, and/or The God Delusion – Richard Dawkins
- The Puzzle of... - Peter Vardy- this series of non-fiction books is about issues in religion and philosophy, very readable and you don't have to be an expert to enjoy them. You can dip in and out of different chapters rather than having to start at the beginning and work through to the end.

- Crash course philosophy—youtube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAKYt3GY
- Wireless philosophy—youtube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_Y3utleTPg
- The Matrix
- The Truman show
- The good place
- Bruce Almighty

WATCH
THIS!



MM McCabe on the 'Socratic Method'

[13 minutes]

[https://hwcdn.libsyn.com/p/0/9/4/094f2a0c73fbaff/M.M. McCabe on Socratic Method.mp3?c_id=1779479&cs_id=1779479&expiration=1585146798&hwt=55c041ac4c5ff7be409fced6e23a095f](https://hwcdn.libsyn.com/p/0/9/4/094f2a0c73fbaff/M.M._McCabe_on_Socratic_Method.mp3?c_id=1779479&cs_id=1779479&expiration=1585146798&hwt=55c041ac4c5ff7be409fced6e23a095f)

If the link doesn't work, google 'Philosophy Bites' and search directly from there.

ETHICS



- The pig that wants to be eaten – Julian Baggini
- 50 Ethical dilemmas
- The most good you can do—Peter Singer
- Ethics in the real world Peter Singer
- Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues – Steven Cahn & Peter Markie

- McCombs School of Business—Youtube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=92&v=NMBIKpkKYao&feature=emb_logo
- The school of life—Youtube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC71cJI8PUf5Z3zKxnZvTBog>
- After the dark
- Erin Brokovich

WATCH
THIS!



LISTEN

James Wilson 'Real World Ethics' [20 minutes]

https://hwcdn.libsyn.com/p/3/5/3/353a0393c3b08eed/James_Wilson_on_Real_World_Ethics.mp3?c_id=52696484&cs_id=52696484&expiration=1585134153&hwt=14fbe132999e47a16eadc71efd13f114

If the link doesn't work, google 'Philosophy Bites' and is on the main home page.

BUDDHISM



- Buddhism: A Students Approach to World Religion by Denise Cush
- Buddhism Plain and Simple—Steve Hagen
- The Heart Of Buddha's Teaching: Transforming Suffering into Peace, Joy and Liberation—Thich Nhat Hanh
- Buddhism A Very Short Introduction—Damien Keown

- The school of life—Youtube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tilBs32zN7I>
- What is Buddhism -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTI3P9zx-oY>
- Buddha—Netflix
- Burma with Simon Reeve—episode one BBC
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0b3g1nm/burma-with-simon-reeve-series-1-episode-1>

WATCH THIS!



LISTEN

- Secular Buddhism—secularbuddhism.com
- BUDDHANET.AUDIO
<http://www.buddhanet.net/audio.htm>
ere you will find a selection of Buddhist chanting from different traditions, Dharma Talks by Buddhist Teachers, Meditation Talk and a page on Buddhist songs.

EXTRA

TED talks – these are usually wonderful, with plenty to stimulate your questioning and reasoning skills.

Some favorites:

- Elizabeth Loftus – how reliable is your memory?
- Dan Gilbert – why we make bad decisions
- Richard Dawkins – militant atheism
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – We should all be feminists
- Damon Horowitz – Philosophy in prison
- His Holiness the Karmapa: The technology of the heart
- Playlist: Are you there, God? (11 talks)
- Matthieu Ricard: The habits of happiness

There are loads of talks on here, so use the search engine to find topics that interest you. Practise note-taking; write notes as you listen, just as you would if you were listening to a real-life lecture, and practise the skill of jotting down key points at speed. Ask yourself questions when you get to the end: what were the speaker's key messages? Do you agree with the speaker? What might someone who disagreed say, and what might their reasons be?

TED
Ideas worth spreading

SEXUAL ETHICS

Activity 1.

This is the first episode of a documentary about attitudes towards homosexuality

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMPl25oraVc>

This is the first episode of Stephen Fry's series 'Out There', where he explores attitudes to homosexuality in different parts of the world.

Questions to think about and/or write about – try to support your answers with reasoning.

- Do you think there is a 'right' attitude and a 'wrong' attitude towards homosexuality? What is it that makes these attitudes right or wrong?
- Some people might argue that different cultures have different ideas about morality, and that these different cultural beliefs should be respected even if we don't agree with them. Do you think we should always respect the beliefs and attitudes of cultures different from our own, or should we try to persuade them to adopt our own beliefs instead?
- What do you think are the aims of this television series? Do you think they are good aims? Do you think this first episode is successful in achieving its aims?
- What religious reasons do people sometimes give for opposing homosexual relationships? How would you support or oppose these views?



SOUL MIND & BODY

Activity 2

Watch this documentary, 'Barra Boy'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhGX1YCsvAM>

- Do you think the story provides convincing evidence for reincarnation? Why, or why not?
- What do you think counts as 'convincing evidence' for life after death (e.g. scripture, near death experiences, nothing)? What makes evidence convincing or unconvincing?
- Do you find these stories convincing? Why, or why not?
- Do you think the stories contradict each other, or are they just told from different points of view, in your opinion? What might account for the differences and the similarities between the stories?



Most common questions asked:

Do you need to have a belief in God?

Absolutely not! Every class has a diverse mixture of students, some who believe in God, some who question God, some who do not believe in God and some who are just not sure. All students are interested in developing their views.

Do you learn about world religions?

The course is directed towards learning about different philosophers' views towards religion so it does not focus on world religions in general. One third of the course studies Buddhist though which focuses upon questioning, exploring and debating philosophically aspects within Buddhism. Sometimes parallels are drawn between ideas contained within other religions, for example Christianity and Islam.

What do you do in lessons?

Within most lessons a particular argument or philosopher is explored such as Plato and his views. The students then have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts on the arguments and work out any strengths and flaws based on their own opinions. We then work through activities and finally link the work to exam preparation.

Do you need to have done RS at school

Absolutely not! As the course focuses on philosophers views most students have never studied or even heard of most of the arguments.... That's why it is so exciting! With this in mind every lesson goes over the arguments slowly and there is always an opportunity to ask or answer questions. It is however recommend that you have a strong grasp of English as the exam is essay style answers and therefore there is often a lot of writing involved in class to prepare for this.

I hope you are staying safe and that you are excited for your next journey at Nelson and Colne College - See you in September!

