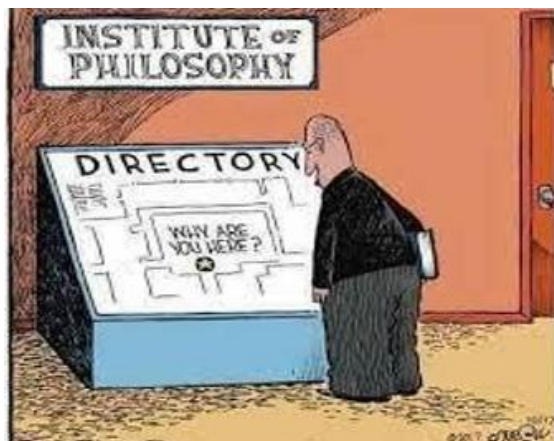


SECOND YEAR PHILOSOPHY UCC 2026-2027



The Department of Philosophy is located at:
2-4 Elderwood, College Road, T12 AW89
Tel: 021-4902588

!! Follow us on Instagram, Bluesky, and/or 'Facebook'!!



<https://www.instagram.com/uccphilosophy/>



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<https://www.facebook.com/PhilosophyDepartmentUcc/>

Second-Year Director of Studies:
Professor Vittorio Bufacchi (3 Elderwood, 1st Floor): v.bufacchi@ucc.ie

ORIENTATION - 2nd YEAR PHILOSOPHY
ALL WELCOME
Tuesday 8th September, 11am, Cummins G10
(formerly Civil Eng Bld)

People



[Colette Connolly](#) – Administrator. C.Connolly@ucc.ie



[Crystal Addey](#) (Dept. of Classics) – Ancient Philosophy. Crystal.addey@ucc.ie



[Juliana de Albuquerque](#) – Existentialism; continental philosophy; Hannah Arendt; Hegel and German Idealism; 20th century Jewish thought. juliana.dealbuquerque@ucc.ie



[Bengt Autzen](#) - Philosophy of science, particularly the philosophy of biology and the philosophy of medicine; formal epistemology. bengt.autzen@ucc.ie



[Vittorio Bufacchi](#) - Political philosophy, particularly human rights, social justice, violence; public philosophy; applied ethics; Cicero; Gramsci. v.bufacchi@ucc.ie



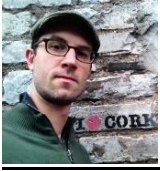
[Jason Dockstader](#) - History of philosophy; comparative philosophy; metaethics; moral psychology; ethics. J.Dockstader@ucc.ie



[Emma Dore-Horgan](#) – Political Philosophy; Applied Ethics. EDore-Horgan@ucc.ie



[Evelien Geerts](#) – Continental European (political) philosophy; feminist philosophy & critical theory; environmental posthumanities. EGeerts@ucc.ie



[Adam Loughnane](#) - Intercultural philosophy; Asian philosophy; continental philosophy; philosophy of art. adam.loughnane@ucc.ie



[Kian Mintz-Woo](#) – Climate change; applied ethics; climate economics; metaethics; political philosophy. mintzwoo@ucc.ie



[Julie Reshe](#) – Existentialism; continental philosophy; psychoanalysis; feminism. JReshe@ucc.ie



[Don Ross](#) – Philosophy of economics; economic experiments; risk; addiction; scientific metaphysics. don.ross931@gmail.com



[Alessandro Salice](#) – Philosophy of mind; phenomenology; collective intentionality; emotion theory; psychopathology; social cognition. alessandro.salice@ucc.ie



[Amir Shahhosseini Angas](#) – Existentialism; Philosophy of Art; Continental Philosophy. 121107289@umail.ucc.ie



[Joel Walmsley](#) (Head of Department) - Philosophy of artificial intelligence; philosophy of science; philosophy of mind. j.walmsley@ucc.ie



[David Walsh](#) - Philosophy of mind and cognition; East-Asian philosophy; comparative philosophy; & philosophy of art. David.Walsh@ucc.ie

SECOND YEAR PHILOSOPHY 2026-2027

IMPORTANT: All classes will occur in real time as per the timetable, face-to-face.

First Semester:

PH2002 Reasoning and Argument (5 credits) – Dr. Joel Walmsley

Tuesdays 11am-12 noon: Cummins Building (formerly Civil Eng Building) G10

Thursdays 9-10am: Cummins Building (formerly Civil Eng Building) G10

PH2004 An Introduction to Political Philosophy (5 credits) – Dr. Emma Dore-Horgan

Mondays 11am-12 noon, Kane G06

Wednesday 10-11am, ORB 123

PH2023 Chinese Philosophy (5 credits) – Dr. Adam Loughnane

Mondays 12 noon-1pm WGB G09

Wednesdays 12 noon-1pm, Kane G18

PH2033 Phenomenology and Mind (5 credits) – Dr. Alessandro Salice

Tuesdays 10-11am, Kane G7

Thursdays 2-3pm, Boole 6

PH2035 Roman Political Thought: Cicero (5 credits) – Prof. Vittorio Bufacchi

Wednesdays 1-2pm WW5

Thursdays 10-11am Boole 5

PH2036 Existentialism (5 credits) - Amir Shahhosseini Angas

Mondays 10-11am Boole 6

Tuesdays 1-2pm Kane G18

Second Semester:

PH2006 Philosophy of Mind and Consciousness (5 credits) – Dr. Joel Walmsley

Monday 11am-12noon, Boole 5

Wednesdays 2-3pm AL G18

PH2012 Philosophy of Knowledge (5 credits) – Dr. Bengt Autzen

Mondays 1-2pm Aras na Laoi G18

Wednesdays 11am-12noon Boole 6

PH2017 Feminist Philosophy (5 credits) – Dr. Evelien Geerts

Tuesdays 2-3pm O’Rahilly Bldg 212

Thursdays 3-4pm O’Rahilly Bldg 212

PH2019 Philosophy of Science (5 credits) –Dr. Bengt Autzen and Dr. David Walsh

Mondays 10-11am ORB 123

Thursdays 1-2pm West Wing 5

PH2028 Applied Ethics (5 credits) –Dr. Jason Dockstader

Tuesdays 3-4pm, Food Science Bldg A1

Thursday 4-5pm, AL G30

GR2043 Ethics and Philosophical Ways of Living in Antiquity – Dr. Crystal Addey (Department of Classics) – crystal.addey@ucc.ie

Wednesdays 12.00-1pm, Boole 6, and at 4-5pm, Kane G20.

Room abbreviation details

AL - Aras na Laoi

FSB - Food Science Building

Conn - Connolly Building (across from the River Lee Hotel)

CEC - Cork Enterprise Centre, North Mall

CPB - Cavanagh Pharmacy Building

Kane - Kane (Science) Building

WW – West Wing

ORB - O'Rahilly Building

BHSC – Brookfield Health Sciences Complex

CE – Civil Engineering Building

LL – Boole

Elect - Electrical Engineering Building

WGB – Western Gateway Building

REQUIREMENTS:

If you are taking 30, 40, or 50 Credits of Philosophy, you **MUST** take PH2002 (5 Credits), plus the remainder of your credits from the following options:

GR2043; PH2004; PH2006; PH2012; PH2017; PH2019; PH2023; PH2028; PH2033; PH2035; PH2036

If you are taking 10 or 20 Credits of Philosophy, then you may take any combination of modules.

NB FOR HONOURS STUDENTS:

The marks assigned in the Second Year are carried forward to Third Year and constitute one third of a student's final B.A. marks.

NOTE:

The full regulations governing the selection of courses and the number of modules required are to be found in the Academic Programme Catalogue: <https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/programmes/> Information on modules can be found here:

<https://www.ucc.ie/admin/registrar/modules/?prefix=PH>

!!! TIMETABLE CLASHES !!!

Due to restrictions in teaching spaces, clashes in your timetable will unfortunately be unavoidable. If you have a clash, you **cannot** take both modules. You must choose between the modules that clash since you are categorically forbidden to register for modules that clash in your timetable with other modules in Philosophy or in any other department across UCC.

MODULE OPTIONS IN FIRST SEMESTER

PH2002 – Reasoning and Argument – Dr. Joel Walmsley

- **Course Description:** The objective of this module is to acquaint students with the variety of forms of reasoning that may be used in arguments in general, and in philosophical texts in particular. The aim is to enable students (a) to evaluate the cogency of arguments that they come across; and (b) to develop arguments of their own that meet the standards for good reasoning. The main focus of the module will be on the study of arguments: the forms that they take, the language they use, and some techniques for reconstructing and evaluating them. We will also examine some formal methods for (re-)constructing and evaluating arguments, especially using truth tables and propositional logic.
- **Readings:**
 - a) Textbook: *Bowell, T., and G. Kemp (2015) Critical Thinking: A Concise Guide (Routledge)* available via the UCC Book shop.
 - b) Book companion website: <http://www.routledgetextbooks.com/textbooks/9780415820929/>
 - c) For the latter parts of the course, we will supplement the textbook with additional material that will be made available on Canvas.
- **Assessment:** Total marks 100: Continuous Assessment - 2 x in-class tests worth 50 marks each.
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.

PH2004 Introduction to Political Philosophy (5 credits) – Dr. Emma Dore-Horgan

- **Course Description:** This module introduces key topics in contemporary political philosophy, such as justice, equality, political obligation and freedom. We will look at the works of some of the major thinkers of the Western tradition – for example, Hobbes, Locke, Rawls – while also examining critical perspectives from feminist political theory. Questions to be discussed include: Why (and when) should we obey political authority? How much liberty should citizens enjoy? How should society's goods be distributed? What issues count as 'political'?
- **Readings:** All readings to be made available on Canvas
- **Assessment:** Total marks 100: Continuous Assessment - 2 x in class test worth 50 marks each (100 Marks total)
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.

PH2023 Chinese Philosophy (5 credits) – Dr. Adam Loughnane

- **Course Description:** This module introduces the major schools of philosophy that developed in ancient China before the 2nd Century BCE, which have been fundamental to its intellectual, religious, social-political, and aesthetic history. Those include various schools of Daoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. Student will be guided through the ideas and practices from the most influential Chinese philosophers such as Laozi, Zhuangzi, and Confucius as well as the four major schools of Chinese Buddhism (Ch'an, Huayan T'ian-t'ai, Consciousness Only) with a brief look at their Indian Buddhist origin. Throughout the module we explore the different conceptions of reality in the diverse schools and the associated understandings of consciousness, ethics, knowledge, language, and perception. A major theme throughout the course will be how the different Chinese philosophers construe the ontologically negative, that is; emptiness, nothingness, and non-presence.
- **Readings:** All readings to be made available on Canvas.
- **Assessment:** Total marks 100: Continuous Assessment 2 x in-class test 70 marks (35 each); attendance and participation 30 marks.
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.

PH2033 Phenomenology and Mind (5 credits) – Dr. Alessandro Salice

- **Course Description:** This course will introduce students to the theory and practice of phenomenology. Students will become familiar with phenomenological methodology esp. in the study of the mind. They will also learn key insights of phenomenologists on fundamental issues related to the mind and the role of the mind in our shared natural and social world. Issues addressed in the module include: consciousness, time, perception, intentionality, action, empathy, etc. The course will also put phenomenological insights in dialogue with other

traditions of philosophy (esp. analytic philosophy of mind) and with the empirical sciences of the mind. This will allow students to deepen their understanding of phenomenology and to identify its place in contemporary debates.

- **Readings:** All readings to be made available on Canvas.
- **Assessment:** Total marks 100: 2 x in class test 100 marks.
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.

PH2035 Roman Political Thought: Cicero (5 credits) – Prof. Vittorio Bufacchi

- **Course Description:** Cicero is arguably the most influential political philosopher of the last 2000 years, perhaps even more influential than Plato, since Cicero was more than a philosopher: he also held the highest political office in the Roman Republic. The focus of this module will be the last 100 years of the Roman Republic, and in particular the philosophical works of Cicero. We will read about life (and death) in Ancient Rome, while examining Cicero's key writings on a range of philosophical topics: the ideal polity and constitution, Republicanism, friendship, moral duties, old age and death.
- **Readings:** Cicero: *On Living and Dying Well* (Penguin 2012); Bufacchi *Why Cicero Matters* (Bloomsbury 2023).
- **Assessment:** Total marks 100: 2 x in class tests 50 marks each; 1 oral presentation.
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.

PH2036 Existentialism (5 credits) – Dr. Amir Shahhosseini Angas

- **Course Description:** This module explores the theme of nihilism through the lens of existentialist philosophy, focusing on the challenges posed by rapid technological development. As innovations in Artificial Intelligence, robotics, and automation increasingly encroach upon spheres of human activity once central to work, creativity, and even identity, we are confronted with what may be a profound crisis of meaning. We thus examine how various existentialist thinkers have grappled with questions freedom, suffering, and authenticity in the face of crises of meaning. We engage canonical philosophical and literary figures of European (Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Kafka, and Stirner) Russian (Dostoevsky, Turgenev) and Japanese existentialism (Nishitani, Hasegawa), as well as contemporary thinkers writing about nihilism and technology. We pay special attention to themes such as suffering, angst, emptiness, nausea, authenticity, and the experience of the absurd. Ultimately, the module asks: Can existential philosophy help us understand and respond to the void that may open in the wake of technological displacement? Will new forms of meaning emerge, or are we entering an era in which meaning itself is called into question in unprecedented ways?
- **Readings:** All readings to be made available on Canvas.
- **Assessment:** Continuous Assessment 100 Marks. In-class Test - 2 x in class tests 35 marks each (70 Marks); Attendance & Participation (30 Marks)
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.

MODULE OPTIONS IN SECOND SEMESTER

PH2006 Philosophy of Mind and Consciousness (5 credits) - Dr. Joel Walmsley

- **Course Description:** Our minds seem to be at once both the thing that we know best and the thing that eludes our best efforts at theory-building. This module introduces students to current philosophical debates about the nature of mind and its place in the natural world. Prominent theories of mind will be considered with particular attention paid to their capacity to capture the first-personal, the apparently private, and experientially rich nature of mental life.
- **Readings:** Further readings on Canvas. A selection of primary and secondary readings, to be made available via Canvas.
- **Assessment:** Total marks 100: 1 x 2,500 word essay (50 marks); 1.5hr Written Exam (50 Marks).
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.

PH2012 Philosophy of Knowledge (5 credits) - Dr. Bengt Autzen

- **Course Description:** Epistemology, or 'the theory of knowledge', is one of the central branches of philosophy, tracing back to ancient Greece. Our approach, however, will be contemporary rather than historical: we will study key epistemological debates in 20th century analytic philosophy, mostly by looking at some deeply puzzling skeptical arguments and paradoxes. Topics to be covered include the nature of knowledge and justification, skepticism and possible responses to it, perception and perceptual knowledge, a priori knowledge, inductive reasoning, probability and degrees of belief.
- **Readings:** Sven Bernecker *Reading Epistemology* (2006, Blackwell). Further readings on Canvas.
- **Assessment:** Total marks 100: 1 x online test 50 marks; 1 x 2,500 word essay 50 marks
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.

PH2017 Feminist Philosophy (5 credits) – Dr. Evelien Geerts

- **Course Description:** This module introduces students to a variety of feminist philosophical and critical theoretical perspectives vis-à-vis the Western philosophical canon. Writing from a variety of situated, embodied perspectives, feminist philosophers and critical theorists challenge several areas of traditional philosophy. The aim of this course is to explore some of these areas while reflecting upon topics such as subjectivity, the body and embodiment, freedom, agency, and autonomy, knowledge production, and so forth. Special attention will be paid to feminist philosophies and critical theories that raise questions about the nature of sex and gender, sex and gender's entanglements with race/ethnicity and able-bodiedness, and how these entanglements have influenced feminist philosophical and critical theoretical knowledge production.
- **Readings:** All readings will be available on Canvas.
- **Assessment:** Total marks 100: 1 x 2,500 word essay (40 Marks); 1 x in class test (40 Marks); Attendance and participation (20 Marks).
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.

PH2019 Philosophy of Science (5 credits) – Dr. Bengt Autzen and Dr. David Walsh

- **Course Description:** This module will provide an introduction to the most important concepts and debates in contemporary philosophy of science. Topics to be considered will include the problem of induction, falsificationism, scientific revolutions, the rationality of theory choice, the nature of scientific explanation, the nature of laws, and the realism vs anti-realism debate. Although previous knowledge of any particular science is, of course, welcome, it is neither required nor expected.
- **Readings:**
 - 1) James Ladyman (2001) *Understanding Philosophy of Science* (Routledge): available through the UCC Lowercase bookshop and online via the UCC library.
 - 2) Further supplementary readings (including from Lakatos and others): available electronically through the module Canvas page.
- **Assessment:** Total marks 100: 1 x online test 50 marks; 1 x 2,500 word essay 50 marks
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.

PH2028 Applied Ethics (5 credits) – Dr. Jason Dockstader

- **Course description:** This course introduces students to key moral theories and their philosophical foundations, including consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics. We will begin by exploring and evaluating these approaches. We shall then apply them to pressing issues such as racism, gender-based violence, end-of-life decisions and euthanasia, animal rights, war and humanitarian intervention. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand, analyse, and engage with both abstract ethical reasoning and concrete moral dilemmas.
- **Readings:** Wolff, Jonathan. *An Introduction to Moral Philosophy*. 3rd ed., WW. Norton & Company, 2025. Selected materials will be available on Canvas.
- **Assessment:** Total Marks 100: 2 x in class test (50 Marks each).
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.

GR2043 – Dr. Crystal Addey (Department of Classics)

- **IMPORTANT:** If you want to take this module, please e-mail Dr. Crystal Addey, crystal.addey@ucc.ie, and inform her of your wish to sign up for GR2041.
- **Course Description:** This module introduces a range of ancient Greek and Roman philosophical approaches and inquiries relating to animals and the environment, including debates and inquiry that focus on cosmology and the natural world, animals and vegetarianism, landscape and place, and the relationship of humans to animals, landscapes and the natural world.
- **Readings:** TBD.
- **Assessment:** Total Marks 100: Written Examination, 1.5hr paper (70 Marks); Continuous Assessment, Essay - 1 x 2,000 word essay (30 Marks)
- **Mode of Teaching:** Face-to-face classroom delivery.



PRACTICAL QUESTIONS AND GENERAL QUERIES:

Your Second-Year Director of Studies is Professor Vittorio Bufacchi: v.bufacchi@ucc.ie. Professor Bufacchi may be contacted at any time about any practical queries, problems etc. that arise in connection with your study of philosophy in your second year.

PASTORAL CARE

We appreciate that students experience unforeseen, and sometimes ongoing, personal difficulties during their time with us. We in the department of Philosophy want to ensure you of our support during these times and encourage you to leave us know of any difficulties as soon as you feel comfortable to. We will respect your privacy and assure confidentiality.

During the academic year, should you run into difficulties to meet deadlines, please remember that you have the option to request an extension. Always consult with your lecturer.

If you wish to talk to someone in the department about academic or personal issues, please contact the Second-Year Director of Studies, Prof. Vittorio Bufacchi v.bufacchi@ucc.ie or another member of staff you feel comfortable with. For personal or medical issues, you may also wish to contact the office of Student Counselling and Development, <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studentcounselling/>, who will offer free, confidential, professional advice on any personal issues affecting your work or wellbeing:

- By Phone: (021) 490 3565
- By Email: counselling@ucc.ie

AUTUMN SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINATIONS

Students who fail a module in Second Year will need to undertake work as part of the "Supplemental" examinations process in July/August 2027. This usually includes a written exam and/or repeat essay, but precise details for each module can be found in the Book of Modules here: <https://www.ucc.ie/modules/>. Please note: Autumn Supplemental marks are usually capped at 40% (see "Mitigation" below).

MITIGATION

If you have experienced personal or medical difficulties that you feel contributed to you failing or to not sitting your exams, you can make an application for "Mitigation". A successful mitigation application will waive the capping of the 40% mark for the Autumn Supplemental Examination. Further details and application form on the mitigation process are available on this link:

MEDICAL CERTS

If a student misses a required element for medical reasons, they must submit a medical certificate to verify the reason for the absence on that date. Students are required to submit medical certificates within two weeks of their absence. Medical certificates submitted after more than two weeks of the absence from a required element may not be accepted by the department.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the copying or misappropriation of ideas (or their expression), text or data without permission and due acknowledgement. It is the presentation of another person's ideas or words as though they were the student's own.

All work submitted as part of the requirement for any examination or assessment in the Philosophy Department must be expressed in the students' own words and incorporate their own ideas and judgments.

Direct quotations from the published or unpublished work of another *must* always be clearly identified as such by being placed in quotation marks, and a full reference to their source must be provided in the proper form.

A single unacknowledged long quotation from a single source, or a series of short quotations from several different sources, if not clearly identified as such, constitute plagiarism. Furthermore, if another person's ideas or judgments are summarized, the student must refer to that person in their text, and include the work to which reference is made in the bibliography.

Use of additional tools such as ChatGPT should be cleared by lecturer and, in any case, be acknowledged in assignments. Failure to do either may constitute plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a serious offence for which there is a range of serious penalties.

Online Learning Resource

Whether you are studying wholly online, in person, or anywhere in between, UCC aims to prepare their students and ensure they have the digital skills to succeed in their course and succeed in the working world.

We hope you find this page helpful, and feel free to dip in and out of this resource whenever you need to.

You can also bookmark this page for future reference:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/skillscentre/academicwritingstudyingresources/knowwheretogo/>