



St Benet Biscop Sixth Form

Personal Development

Philosophy and Ethics

1. MOOCs

Reading Religious Conversion

This course exposes you to a wealth of conversion stories from across the globe and throughout history. The texts explore the complex aspects of religious identities and the varied expressions of community belonging and social borders.

Ethics in Action

What do the world's great religions and secular philosophers have to say about ethical conduct? Which virtues are common across faiths? And what role do religious communities have to play in building a more just and sustainable world.

Libertarian Free Will, Neuroscientific and Philosophical Evidence

In this course, you will dismantle arguments against free will, both from a philosophical, physics and neuroscientific perspective. In supporting free will, you will tour philosophy, physics and neuroscience. You will rethink the neural code and discover that evolution has discovered a middle path between determinism and chance.

The path to happiness -What Chinese Philosophy Teaches us about the Good Life.

This course will explore ancient Chinese philosophy, ethics and political theory to challenge your assumptions of what it means to be happy, live a meaningful life, and change the world.

Religion, conflict, and peace

This course will explore the diverse and complex roles that religion plays in both promoting and mitigating violence.

Future robots

Learn Robots in a new science for the understanding of human beings and the affects of robots in the real world.

The science of religion

What is religion? Are we wired to believe? Does science have the answers? Join this course to journey to the origins of religion and spirituality.

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2. Podcasts

In our time- Philosophy

From Altruism to Wittgenstein, philosophers, theories, and key themes.

Philosophical talk starters

Philosophy Talk is the program that questions everything except your intelligence.

Moral Maze

Combative, provocative, and engaging live debate examining the moral issues behind one of the week's news stories.

Brain in a vat

Thought experiments and conversations with philosophers. Hosted by Dr Jason Werbeloff and Mark Oppenheimer.

Everyday Ethics

Everyday Ethics holds Provocative weekly debate on moral, religious and ethical issues from the BBC Radio Ulster.

Dilemma Podcast

The Dilemma Podcast features prominent thinkers discussing a different moral dilemma in every episode. Hosted by Jay Shapiro & Coleman Hughes with moral dilemmas to soothe your existential dread.

Aquinas 101 » Course 4: Principles of the Moral Life

This is the course listening for Aquinas 101 - Course 4: Principles of the Moral Life. The fourth of six courses dealing with morality in life that together make up the Aquinas 101 Course. Tune in because it matters what you think.

The Big Ones

Each week will be a new ethical question ranging from historical decisions to relationship dilemmas to brain-busting moral choices. The questions can be complicated but they're always fun to discuss because they force you to look deep, deep, deep withinside yourself.

Philosophy 24/7 Podcast

A Podcast that interviews leading philosophers about pressing moral and political issues. The podcast is hosted by David Edmonds, a multi-awarding winning BBC journalist, and one half of the duo behind the Philosophy Bites podcast.

The Moral Science Podcast

A psychologist who is endlessly fascinated with human morality interviews experts who dedicate their careers to understanding it. Hosted by Amber Cazzell.

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Unlatched Mind

The Unlatched Mind podcast is a long form discussion on topics including neuroscience, morality, behavioural science, religion, artificial intelligence, psychology and philosophy. Host Vinny Vallarine introduces listeners to guests and experts on these, and other topics of interest.

3. Books

Philosophy

The Philosophy Files - Stephen Law

Is there a God, should I eat meat, where does the universe come from, could I live for ever as a robot? These are the big questions readers will be wrestling with in this thoroughly enjoyable book. Dip into any chapter and you will find lively scenarios and dialogues to take you through philosophical puzzles ancient and modern, involving virtual reality, science fiction and a host of characters from this and other planets. The text is interspersed on every page with lively cartoons, and there is a list of philosophical jargon at the end. Stephen Law has a gift for communicating complex ideas. He offers few answers, but his unstuffy, highly personal approach will have the reader thinking and arguing with as much pleasure as he does himself.

The God Delusion – Reichard Dawkins

In The God Delusion, Dawkins contends that a supernatural creator, God, almost certainly does not exist, and that belief in a personal god qualifies as a delusion, which he defines as a persistent false belief held in the face of strong contradictory evidence.

Teach Yourself Philosophy of Religion- Mel Thompson

The essential guide for anyone wanting to investigate religion in the context of philosophy. It explores the key principles upon which religion is based and considers how religion relates to our understanding of life. It answers questions such as:

how do religious beliefs relate to morality? Should religions be judged according to the behaviour of their followers? Is it necessary to be committed to a religion or are religious questions and experiences open to all?

Philosophy A Graphic Guide- Dave Johnson and Judy Groves

Introducing Philosophy is a comprehensive graphic guide to the thinking of all the significant philosophers of the Western world from Heraclitus to Derrida. It examines and explains their key arguments and ideas without being obscure or solemn. Lively and accessible, it is the perfect introduction to philosophers and philosophical ideas for anyone coming to the subject for the first time.

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50 Philosophy Ideas – Ben Dupre

Have you ever lain awake at night fretting over how we can be sure of the reality of the external world? Perhaps we are in fact disembodied brains, floating in vats at the whim of some deranged puppet-master? If so, you are not alone - and what's more, you are in exalted company. For this question and others like it have been the stuff of philosophical rumination for centuries, from Plato to Popper. 50 Philosophy Ideas You Really Need to Know introduces and explains the problems of knowledge, consciousness, identity, ethics, belief, justice and aesthetics that have troubled the minds of great thinkers for centuries, from the ancient Greeks to the present day.

Consciousness; an introduction -Susan Blackmore

Consciousness, 'The last great mystery for science', remains a hot topic. How can a physical brain create our experience of the world? What creates our identity? Do we really have free will? Could consciousness itself be an illusion? Exciting new developments in brain science are continuing the debates on these issues, and the field has now expanded to include biologists, neuroscientists, psychologists, and philosophers. This controversial book clarifies the potentially confusing arguments, and the major theories, whilst also outlining the amazing pace of discoveries in neuroscience.

The Blind Watchmaker – Richard Dawkins

The watchmaker belongs to the 18th-century theologian William Paley, who argued that just as a watch is too complicated and functional to have sprung into existence by accident, so too must all living things, with their far greater complexity, be purposefully designed. Charles Darwin's brilliant discovery challenged the creationist arguments; but only Richard Dawkins could have written this elegant riposte. Natural selection - the unconscious, automatic, blind, yet essentially nonrandom process Darwin discovered - is the blind watchmaker in nature.

Principles of Philosophy – Renee Descartes

By calling everything into doubt, Descartes laid the foundations of modern philosophy. With the celebrated words "I think therefore I am," his compelling argument swept aside ancient and medieval traditions. He deduced that human beings consist of minds and bodies; that these are totally distinct "substances"; that God exists and that He ensures we can trust the evidence of our senses. Ushering in the "scientific revolution" of Galileo and Newton, his ideas have set the agenda for debate ever since. His philosophical methods and investigation changed the course of Western philosophy and led to or transformed the fields of metaphysics, epistemology, physics and mathematics, political theory and ethics.

Idea of the Holy – Rudolf Otto

"It is essential to every theistic conception of God, and most of all to the Christian, that it designates and precisely characterizes Deity by the attributes Spirit, Reason, Purpose, Good Will, Supreme Power, Unity, Selfhood. The nature of God is thus thought of by analogy with our human nature of reason and personality; only, whereas in ourselves we are aware of this as qualified by restriction and limitation, as applied to God the attributes we use are 'completed', i.e., thought as absolute and unqualified. Now all these attributes constitute clear and definite concepts: they can be grasped by the intellect; they can be analysed by thought; they even admit of definition." (Rudolf Otto - The Idea of the Holy)



An Introduction to Plato's Republic - Julia Annas

This interpretive introduction provides unique insight into Plato's Republic. Stressing Plato's desire to stimulate philosophical thinking in his readers, Julia Annas here demonstrates the coherence of his main moral argument on the nature of justice, and expounds related concepts of education, human motivation, knowledge and understanding. In a clear systematic fashion, this book shows that modern moral philosophy still has much to learn from Plato's attempt to move the focus from questions of what acts the just person ought to perform to the more profound questions of what sort of person the just person ought to be.

The Concept of the Mind (Penguin) - Ryle Gilbert

This epoch-making book cuts through confused thinking and forces us to re-examine many cherished ideas about knowledge, imagination, consciousness and the intellect. The result is a classic example of philosophy.

God, Freedom and Evil - Alvin Plantinga

In his discussion of natural theology (arguments to prove the existence of God) and natural atheology (arguments for the falsehood of theistic belief) Plantinga focuses on two of the traditional arguments: the ontological argument as an example of natural theology, and the problem of evil as the most important representative of natural atheology. Accessible to serious general readers.

Intro. to the Philosophy of Religion – Brian Davies

What does belief in God amount to? Can we reasonably believe in God's existence without argument or evidence? Can God's existence be proved? Can we believe in miracles? Is there life after death? In this book, Brian Davies provides a critical examination of some fundamental questions posed by religious belief. Completely rewritten in order to cover the latest developments in the field, the new edition of this highly successful textbook will once again prove the ideal introduction for all students of the philosophy of religion.

The Question of God – Michael Palmer

This important textbook introduces the six great arguments for the existence of God, as found in a wealth of primary sources from classic and contemporary texts. It requires no specialist knowledge of philosophy and is ideally suited to students and teachers at school or university level. Sections include:
** The Ontological Argument, The Cosmological Argument, The Argument from Design, The Argument from Miracles, The Moral Argument, The Pragmatic Argument.*

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Ethics

Puzzle of Ethics – Peter Vardy

This popular introduction to the subject of ethics poses vital contemporary questions and explores the approach of leading thinkers. The authors take the reader, step by step, through the complex arguments on issues such as animal and human rights, environmental ethics and the morality of war.

Ethical Studies – Robert Bowie

A detailed treatment of ethics, preparing students for the methods of study expected in higher education. Covering the major western theories and their religious connections, as well as a series of pertinent contemporary ethical issues.

A very short introduction to Ethics – Simon Blackburn

Our self-image as moral, well-behaved creatures is dogged by scepticism, relativism, hypocrisy, and nihilism, and by the fear that in a Godless world science has unmasked us as creatures fated by our genes to be selfish and tribalistic, or competitive and aggressive. Here, Simon Blackburn tackles the major moral questions surrounding birth, death, happiness, desire, and freedom, showing us how we should think about the meaning of life, and why we should mistrust the soundbite-sized absolutes that often dominate moral debates.

The Moral Philosophers: An Introduction to Ethics – Richard Norman

The second edition of this accessible book features a new chapter on Nietzsche and an entirely new Part III that covers contemporary utilitarianism, rights-based ethical theories, contractarian ethics and virtue ethics, and recent debates between realism and anti-realism in ethics. The strengths of the first edition—its readability, historical approach, coverage of specific moral philosophers, and detailed recommended reading sections at the beginning of each chapter—combined with the new material make this an essential resource for all readers interested in ethics.

Teach Yourself Ethics – Mel Thompson

Whether you're a student studying philosophy at any level, or simply want to gain a deeper understanding of this fascinating subject, Understand Ethics is an accessible introduction to all the key theories and thinkers. Fully updated, this latest edition includes contemporary examples and discussion of current debates including terrorism, genetics and the media, helping you to grasp how ethics applies to life today.

Situation Ethics – The New Morality – Joseph Fletcher

Proposing an ethic of loving concern, Fletcher suggests that certain acts—such as lying, premarital sex, adultery, or even murder—might be morally right, depending on the circumstances. Hotly debated on television, in magazines and newspapers, in churches, and in the classroom, Fletcher's provocative thesis remains a powerful force in contemporary discussions of morality.

Causing Death and Saving Lives (Penguin) – John Glover

The moral problems of abortion, infanticide, suicide, euthanasia, capital punishment, war and other life-or-death choices.

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Practical Ethics – Peter Singer

Some of the questions discussed in this book concern our daily lives. Is it ethical to buy luxuries when others do not have enough to eat? Should we buy meat from intensively reared animals? Am I doing something wrong if my carbon footprint is above the global average? Other questions confront us as concerned citizens: equality and discrimination on the grounds of race or sex; abortion, the use of embryos for research and euthanasia; political violence and terrorism; and the preservation of our planet's environment. This book's lucid style and provocative arguments make it an ideal text for university courses and for anyone willing to think about how she or he ought to live.

Business Ethics – Andrew Crane

How can you be an ethical corporate citizen in an increasingly complex, multiple-stakeholder world? This is the most pressing question facing businesses today, small and large, local and global. Business Ethics is a thorough yet accessible exploration of the main ethical theories and how these apply to the major stakeholders facing this question.

Written from a truly international perspective and supported by diverse and innovative learning features, this book provides the tools and concepts necessary to understand and effectively manage ethical challenges wherever you are in the world.

Utilitarianism – John Stuart Mill

The basic principle of utilitarianism is that one's actions should be guided towards outcomes that create the greatest good for the greatest numbers of people, or in other words towards the maximization of utility, or happiness. This simple guiding principle creates a host of challenging moral dilemmas. Arguably one of the most important political thinkers of the modern era, John Stuart's Mill's influence on Western civilization cannot be overstated. In his classic exposition "Utilitarianism".

Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong- Louis Pojman

ETHICS: DISCOVERING RIGHT AND WRONG, 8E begins with easy to read chapters that introduce questions of meta-ethics and major moral theories. Later chapters address special topics in personal and religious ethics as well as the most recent developments in moral theory, including a new chapter on Biology and Ethics. Study questions for each chapter, along with useful bibliographies, make grasping the material more accessible than ever

The Four Loves – C.S. Lewis

C.S. Lewis's famous work on the nature of love divides love into four categories: Affection, Friendship, Eros and Charity. The first three are loves which come naturally to the human race. Charity, however, the Gift-love of God, is divine in its source and expression, and without the sweetening grace of this supernatural love, the natural loves become distorted and even dangerous.

An introduction to the morals and principles of legislation – Jeremy Bentham

An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation is a book by philosopher Jeremy Bentham "originally printed in 1780, and first published in 1789." Bentham's "most important theoretical work," it is where Bentham develops his theory of utilitarianism and is the first major book on the topic.



Rethinking Life and Death: - Peter Singer

Singer shows just why our traditional ethic of life and death is collapsing all around us - but instead of lamenting the fact, as traditional moralists do, he sees it as an opportunity to move forward to a more soundly based approach. In discussing themes like euthanasia, brain death, abortion, and the treatment of patients in a persistent vegetative state, Singer boldly discards the old rhetoric and meaningless clichés about the sanctity of human life. Instead he produces a fresh account of when life should be regarded as precious and worth preserving, and when it should not be.

Ethical Theory - Russ Shafer-Endau

Ethical Theory: An Anthology is an authoritative collection of key essays by top scholars in the field, addressing core issues including consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics, as well as traditionally underrepresented topics such as moral knowledge and moral responsibility. Brings together seventy-six classic and contemporary pieces by renowned philosophers, from classic writing by Hume and Kant to contemporary writing by Derek Parfit, Susan Wolf, and Judith Jarvis Thomson. Guides students through key areas in the field, among them consequentialism, deontology, contractarianism, and virtue ethics. Includes coverage of metaethics, normative ethics, and practical ethics.

4. Websites

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/plato/>

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ancient-soul/>

www.teachphilosophy101.org

www.reddit.com/r/philosophy

www.philosophybites.com

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aquinas-moral-political/>

<http://www.ftse.com/products/downloads/F4G-Index-Inclusion-Rules.pdf> and www.peped.org

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aquinas-moral-political/>

<http://www.ftse.com/products/downloads/F4G-Index-Inclusion-Rules.pdf>

www.sacred-texts.com/chr/barmen.htm

www.religioustolerance.org

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5. Films/documentaries

Gattaca

Vincent Freeman has always fantasized about traveling into outer space, but is grounded by his status as a genetically inferior "in-valid." He decides to fight his fate by purchasing the genes of Jerome Morrow, a laboratory-engineered "valid." He assumes Jerome's DNA identity and joins the Gattaca space program, where he falls in love with Irene. An investigation into the death of a Gattaca officer complicates Vincent's plans.

The Butterfly Effect

Evan gets severe headaches that cause him to suffer black outs. While unconscious, he is able to travel back in time and alter the past, but this causes drastic changes in his present life.

It's a Wonderful Life

When a frustrated businessman, George Bailey, becomes suicidal, an angel from heaven, Clarence, is sent to him. To his change of heart, she shows him what life would have been without his existence.

The Tree of Life

Jack tries to mend the troubled relationship that he shares with his father, Mr O'Brien. He attempts to find the true meaning of life in the modern world and questions the existence of faith.

Inception

Dom Cobb is a thief with the rare ability to enter people's dreams and steal their secrets from their subconscious. His skill has made him a hot commodity in the world of corporate espionage but has also cost him everything he loves. Cobb gets a chance at redemption when he is offered a seemingly impossible task: Plant an idea in someone's mind. If he succeeds, it will be the perfect crime, but a dangerous enemy anticipates Cobb's every move.

Her

Theodore Twombly, an introverted writer, buys an Artificial Intelligence system to help him write. However, when he finds out about the AI's ability to learn and adapt, he falls in love with it.

Rope

Just before hosting a dinner party, Philip Morgan and Brandon Shaw strangle a mutual friend to death with a piece of rope, purely as a Nietzsche-inspired philosophical exercise. Hiding the body in a chest upon which they then arrange a buffet dinner, the pair welcome their guests, including the victim's oblivious fiancée and the college professor whose lectures inadvertently inspired the killing.

Dead Man Walking

A nun, while comforting a convicted killer on death row, empathizes with both the killer and his victim's families.

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Being John Malkovich

Explores the idea of, ironically enough, being yourself. When Craig enters the mind of John Malkovich, he believes he is seeing the world through a new set of eyes—but really, it's just him. He might be in a different body, but it's still his same mind. And, thus, his same fears, his same anxieties.

Sophie's Choice

Dealing with the choice between the greater of two evils- situations that are so devastating that a good choice is impossible.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Joel finds out that his girlfriend, Clementine, has had him erased from her memories and decides to do the same. During the time of the clinical procedure, he realizes that he still loves her deeply.

My Sister's Keeper

Conceived as a marrow donor for her gravely ill sister, Anna Fitzgerald has undergone countless surgeries and medical procedures in her short life. Though their older daughter's life has no doubt been prolonged, the unorthodox decision of Anna's parents has cracked the entire family's foundation. When Anna sues her parents for emancipation, it sets off a court case that threatens to destroy the family for good.

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