

Philosophy and Theology at University





Why study philosophy or theology?

- Because there is nothing you want more than to spend three years exploring questions that potentially have no answer.

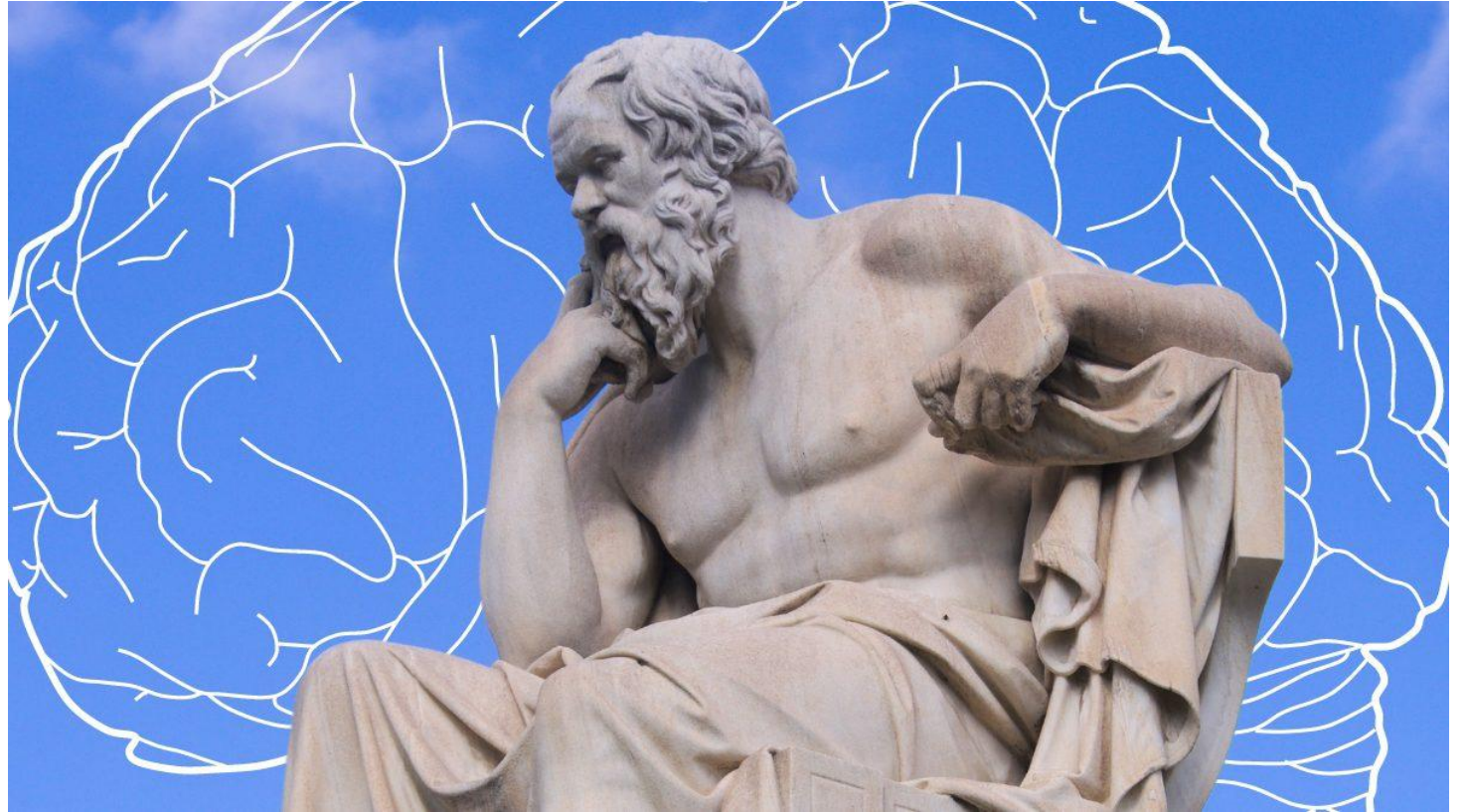


What you will explore studying theology

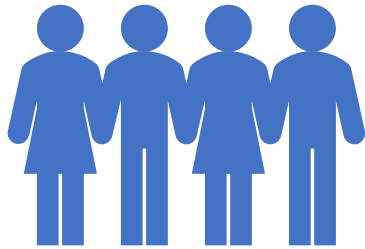
- Christianity still predominates in most universities
- Increasingly universities are offering a variety of religions
- Most courses will cover Biblical studies, doctrine, and Church history
- Many universities are modernising to explore topics such as film, architecture, sociology, politics, from theological perspectives

What you will explore studying philosophy

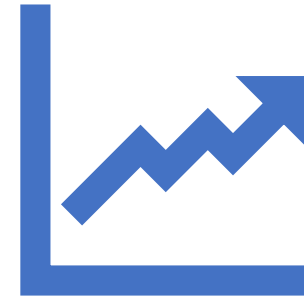
- A significant focus on the Western tradition from Socrates to the present day
- The major issues such as metaphysics, epistemology, logic, ethics
- Increasingly universities are exploring non-western philosophy and contemporary issues



Theology



Decreased popularity



Increased opportunities for Russell
Group

Philosophy

Consider doing it with other subjects –

- Languages
- Politics
- Economics
- Theology
- Maths

Philosophy – Best UK Universities

University	QS Global Rank	Guardian UK Rank	Complete Uni Rank	AL Req	IB Req
St Andrews	12	2	2	AAB	36
Oxford	4	1	1	AAA	39
Cambridge	7	3	4	A*AA	41
Durham	29	8	8	AAA	37
Bristol	28	24	10	AAA	32-36
LSE	2	4	3	AAA	38
Kings	13	14	13	AAA	35
Edinburgh	20	18	15	AAA	37

Theology – Best UK Universities

University	QS Global Rank	Guardian UK Rank	Complete Uni Rank	AL Req	IB Req
Oxford	2	2	2	AAA	38
Cambridge	4	1	1	A*AA	40
Durham	6	4	6	AAB	36
Edinburgh	16	5	4	ABB	34
St Andrews	14	N/A	7	ABB	36
Birmingham	32	7	8	ABB	32
Glasgow	51-100	3	15	BBB	34
Exeter	51-100	9	5	AAB	34

Personal Statement Questions



Specific scholars you are interested in E.g. Sartre or Swinburne



Specific books / articles you have read E.g. God Delusion, Dawkins or Augustine's City of God



Lectures you have been to. E.g. Philosophy of Religion conference



Particular units/topics you have studied that you have excelled in E.g. What does it mean to be human? IB.



Areas of study which you would like to explore further at university. E.g. Existentialism.

Further Reading Lists

|B Philosophy Reading List

Some suggestions for those intending to read philosophy and/or beginning a philosophy course.
Mostly recommended by Cambridge University – Faculty of Philosophy.

General introductions

Edward Craig, *Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press)
Thomas Nagel, *What Does it All Mean?* (OUP).
[Simon Blackburn](#), *Think* (OUP).
Bertrand Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy* (OUP)
Jonny Thomson, *Mini Philosophy: A Small Book of Big Ideas* ([Hachet](#))
Nigel Warburton, *A Little History of Philosophy* (YUP)

Some contemporary books on specific areas:

Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Mind

Earl Conee and Theodore Sider, *Riddles of Existence* (OUP)
Tim Crane, *The Mechanical Mind* (Routledge)

Logic and Language

R M Sainsbury, *Paradoxes* (Cambridge University Press)

Ethics and Political Philosophy

Simon Blackburn, *Being Good* (OUP)
Peter Singer, *Practical Ethics* (CUP)
Michael Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* (Penguin)
Bernard Williams, *Morality* (Penguin)
Jonathon Wolff, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy* (OUP)

Also, the Philosophy Bites series of podcasts and books.

<http://www.philosophybites.com>
BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time

Great Dead Philosophers

(Any edition, some of these are freely available on the internet)
Plato, *Meno* and *Euthyphro*
Descartes, *Meditations*
Hume, *Enquiry concerning Human Understanding* and *Dialogues on Natural Religion*
J S Mill, *Utilitarianism* and *On Liberty*
F Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*

Philosophy of Religion

Vardy, P. (1999) *The Puzzle of God*, SCM Press
Bayne, T. (2018) *Philosophy of Religion: A Very Short Introduction*, OUP
Dawkins, R. (2006) *The God Delusion*, Black Swan

Ethics

Vardy, P. (1999) *The Puzzle of Ethics*, SCM Press
Blackburn S. (2002) *Being Good*, OUP
Singer, P. (1993) *Practical Ethics*, CUP
Sandel, M. J. (2010) *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*, Penguin

Theology

The New Testament, New International Version
Armstrong, K. (1999) *A History of God*, Vintage
McGrath, A. (2015) *Christianity: An Introduction*, Blackwell Publishing
McGrath, A. (2017) *Theology: The Basics*, Wiley-Blackwell
Johnson, L. T. (2010) *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction*

Careers

Education

Government

Finance

Law

Charitable and religious organisations

Business Consultant

Journalism