Get ready for BA(Hons) Philosophy

We hope that you are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol! As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto our BA(Hons) in Philosophy. The instructions for how to register for your course and the details of your induction will be sent to you separately.

In the meantime, we have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us.

Dr. Miguel Prado Casanova
Programme Leader for Philosophy

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website with more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival
You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Registration
Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Registration website.

ID card - upload your photo now
We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning

In addition to your lectures and seminars we hope that when you start at UWE you will make the most of our activities, including our visiting speaker series and film club, and our public events. If you want to start thinking about philosophical questions before you start, you could check out some of our videos and podcasts. You can also have a look at the latest issue of Agora – our student-led undergrad journal.

Read around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you are encouraged to start reading and researching around philosophy before you arrive. Explore the Library web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

If you are keen to begin reading philosophical texts then a good general book you can read over the summer is Thomas Nagel's *What Does it All Mean?* You might also like to return to the Greeks and take a look at Plato's *Republic*.

But it is just as worthwhile to be reading literature, watching films, and looking at art, all of which can both raise and address philosophical questions, and be the subject of philosophical investigation. Some particularly thought-provoking novels include Sartre's Nausea and Kafka's Metamorphosis. While from the world of cinema you could watch *Agora, Waking Life, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind or The Seventh Seal* (to suggest just a few of many films with philosophical dimensions).

Course Texts

Most of the texts that you will read as part of your studies will be in the library as either electronic resources or hard copies. There will be some core texts that you will need to refer to a lot during some modules and you might find it useful to purchase these. In the first term the following texts are ones that you will make regular use of and which you may want to get hold of a copy of in advance (if you do buy a copy make sure to get the suggested edition/ year of publication and translation):

- For Ancient Philosophy: *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy from Thales to Aristotle*, Edited by S. Marc Cohen, Patricia Curd, and C.D.C. Reeve. Cambridge, MA: Hackett Publishing, 2011 (Fourth or Fifth Edition).
- For Existentialism and Questions of Human Nature: Nietzsche: *On the Genealogy of Morality* and Other Writings (Cambridge University Press, 2017, Edited by Keith Ansell-Pearson Translated by Carol Diethe)
- For Understanding our Global and Social Environment: M. Foucault, *Society Must Be Defended*. Translated by D. Macey. London: Penguin 2020
- For Philosophical Methods: Introduction we will be working through arguments from different philosophers so you will be not need a particular book.

We encourage you to think about philosophical questions even before you arrive. Alongside books, literature, and film, you might also explore podcasts and online talks that raise interesting philosophical issues. These are often more accessible and can offer a more contemporary or varied perspective.

Some suggested resources:

- Louis Sass, "RIP Lecture" on subjectivity, phenomenology, Hamlet, and looping effects: Watch on YouTube
- Michael Burns on nihilism (1-minute clip): Watch on YouTube
- *You're Dead To Me* podcast on Aristotle: Listen on BBC Sounds
- What Nietzsche Teaches Us – BBC Radio 3: Listen here

Connect with others

If you want to ask questions of other students, you might like to join our Facebook page UWE Philosophy Community.

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

International students

The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact the Programme Leader:

Dr. Miguel Prado Casanova via email at miguel.pradocasanova@uwe.ac.uk

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Please note: This information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026