

SE u3a Forum Summer School

Monday 7th – Thursday 10th September 2026

University of Chichester



Philosophy - Introduction

Maximum 14

Philosophy is usually referred to as a love of wisdom. Another way of thinking about philosophy is that it is a particular 'way of thinking' about subjects such as ethics, thought, existence, time, meaning and value.

You have been doing philosophy your whole life, but you may not have thought that you have been doing it. That 'way of thinking' involves responding to things, reflecting on them, reasoning about them and re-evaluating what we think. The aim is to arrive at a better understanding of things.

By exploring Philosophy, we hope to think better, to act with greater wisdom, and so live a more fulfilling and meaningful life.



Prior to the start of the Course – A 'Reading List' will be sent to members after they have signed up for the course. Although there is no obligation to complete the reading list, it would enable students to interact with the course's content at a deeper level.

Summer School Course – 2026

We will consider **some** aspect from the main areas of Philosophy:

- Introduction to Philosophy: What is philosophy? Why study it? Branches of philosophy.
- The importance of Plato and Aristotle in Western Philosophy.
- Knowledge and Reality: What exists? What is real? What can we know? How do we know it?
- What is the nature of identity and the self?
- Ethics and Morality: What is right and wrong? How do we approach moral dilemmas?
- The Meaning of Life: What is the purpose of life? What makes a life good?
- Aesthetics and the Arts: What is beauty? What is the purpose of art?
- Philosophy of Science: What is the nature of science?
- Religion and Philosophy: What is the nature of religious belief? Can faith and reason coexist?

*For further information **about the course**, please contact the tutor*