Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

Final Year BA
Student Booklet
for
PHILOSOPHY
Academic Year 2026/2027



All information in this booklet is also available at the following web-link:

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Dear Students,

We hope this finds you well and that you have enjoyed some rest, recovery, and reading this summer. Nonetheless, we are delighted to be able to welcome you back on campus!

The course offerings for the academic year 2025/26 are listed in the 3BA Course Outline available on our website and in this Handbook. As ever, this year the emphasis must be on your own reading, researching, and writing.

This Handbook contains the following information:

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We hope to help your learning experience where we can and provide an exciting and stimulating year. We look forward to welcoming you back!

Best wishes,

Tsarina Doyle

Head of Final Year

Contact Information

The Discipline Administrator is María Bernal Navarro. All general enquiries that cannot be answered in this Handbook should be directed to her.

Ms. Bernal Navarro's email address is philosophyadmin@universityofgalway.ie. Please note that she is available on *mornings only, Monday to Thursday*.

If you have questions concerning the Final Year Philosophy academic programme that cannot be answered either by the Administrator or other sources detailed in this Handbook, the **Head of Final Year Dr. Tsarina Doyle** can be contacted about academic concerns. Her office is Room 101 of Morrisroe House (the Philosophy Building). Dr Tsarina Doyle is available at tsarina.doyle@universityofgalway.ie.

In order to save you time, it is important that you contact the most appropriate people to help you with your query. You can of course discuss things with other people, including staff, but the people below are the main points of contact.

Your Query	Who to Contact
If you are confused about the course or the assessment	Lecturer or course tutor
If you want an extension	Head of Year (See Philosophy Web Page and revised College policy on extenuating circumstances – pages 11 & 12)
If you need to defer your assessment because of serious illness or bereavement	The College of Arts Office, artsundergrad@universityofgalway.ie Catherine McCurry, Administrative Assistant Tony Pehar, Administrative Assistant
If you are ill	Your GP or other medical professional. Medical certificates should be submitted to the Philosophy Discipline Administrator, María Bernal Navarro, or the SOHAP School Administrator Helena Condon.
If you are experiencing stress, anxiety or other personal problems	Your GP, the student counselling service, the SU welfare office.
If you want to pass on documentation to explain lateness – which you should do once you have submitted your assignments	Philosophy Discipline Administrator, María Bernal Navarro or the SOHAP School administrator, Helena Condon. Philosophyadmin@universityofgalway.ie Sohap@universityofgalway.ie
For anything else	Philosophy staff are always happy to meet students during office hours and can discuss any issues that you wish to raise.

Contacts:

School Administrator: Helena Condon	sohap@universityofgalway.ie
Discipline Administrator: María Bernal Navarro	Philosophyadmin@universityofgalway.ie
Dr. Tsarina Doyle Head of Final Year	Room 101, Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Road tsarina.doyle@universityofgalway.ie
Dr. Michela Dianetti	m.dianetti@universityofgalway.ie
Dr Lucy Elvis	Room 102, Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Road Lucy.elvis@universityofgalway.ie
Dr. Heike Felzmann	Room 201, Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Road heike.felzmann@universityofgalway.ie
Dr. Yvonne Förster	yvonne.forster@universityofgalway.ie
Dr. Richard Hull Academic Integrity Advisor (On leave in Semester One)	Room 104, Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Road, Richard.hull@universityofgalway.ie
Prof. Felix Ó Murchadha (Head of Discipline)	Room 202, Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Road felix.omurchadha@universityofgalway.ie
Dr John O'Reilly	Room 204, Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Road, john.oreilly@universityofgalway.ie
Dr. Orla Richardson	Room 106, Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Road, orla.richardson@universityofgalway.ie
Dr. Nick Tosh	Room 203, Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Road nick.tosh@universityofgalway.ie
Dr Nora Ward	Room 104, Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Road nora.ward@universityofgalway.ie

Further information and support

University of Galway Philosophy is committed to the welfare and wellbeing of our students alongside academic excellence. Do please check all available sources of information and come forward if you need help.

University of Galway Philosophy website should be your first port of call for all information about Philosophy.

University of Galway Canvas is an important source of information about courses and assessments. Please check in on Canvas regularly for important updates throughout the term. Individual courses will contain extra resources and information that may help you.

University of Galway Philosophy Facebook page may also have sources of help and other links and updates. We encourage you to like the page!

University of Galway College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies. The College Office handles most queries about overall subject choices or clashes, repeats, assessment appeals and so on.

Email. Periodic communications from your lecturers, the discipline of Philosophy and the university are sent to registered students via their **universityofgalway.ie student email** accounts. For this reason, please check this email on a regular basis, and please use your University of Galway account, when possible, for contacting members of the university in any context.

Class Representatives: these will be selected at the beginning of the year by Final Year students. Do consider putting yourself forward as a class rep. This is a very useful way of communicating with the department, whereby wider course feedback, general issues or particular concerns can be recognised and dealt with quickly.

Student Registry Helpdesk: For replacement ID cards, exam transcripts, registration and custom statements, change of name/address, validation and stamping of forms, course withdrawal and lost and found, see Student Registry Helpdesk.

University policies and procedures relating to students: For information on anti-bullying policy for students; alcohol policy; supports for students experiencing pregnancy, maternity and paternity; authorised absences; drug policy; student sexual harassment policy; mental health strategy; student code of conduct and other university policies relating to students, see http://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-services/policies/

Campus Map

The College Library: The James Hardiman Library is located in the Hardiman Research Building, which is a few paces away from the Philosophy Discipline on Distillery Road. For further information, see http://library.universityofgalway.ie/

The Student Union: http://su.universityofgalway.ie/

We all need help sometimes: do get in touch with these services if you have a relevant query, or need specific advice or support from these services. If you feel stressed, depressed, or not yourself in some way, consider contacting the University Counselling Service (for details see below).

Disability Support Services

University of Galway positively values the participation of students who have a disability, illness or specific learning difficulty and promotes a university experience of the highest quality for all students. The Disability Support Service promotes inclusive practices throughout the campus community, and we are committed to the provision of an equitable learning environment that will enable all students to become independent learners and highly skilled graduates. For further information see: http://www.universityofgalway.ie/disability/

Disability Support Service is located on the first floor of Áras Ui Chathail, Room AUC1004. If you would like to contact someone in the Disability Support Service team, please choose from the options below:

- General queries: disabilityservice@universityofgalway.ie or telephone: 353 (0) 91 492813
- DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) queries: access@universityofgalway.ie or telephone: 353 (0) 91 492106
- Assistive Technology queries: disabilityservice@universityofgalway.ie or telephone: 353 (0)91 492744

Further contact details of staff of the service are available on the website.

Academic Writing Centre

The AWC offers free one-on-one tutorials on essay writing for University of Galway students, to help students overcome recurrent problems with grammar, punctuation, spelling, and essay structure. The AWC offers help and encouragement to support students develop their writing skills. Everyone is welcome, regardless of level of experience or grade average. AWC tutors work with new entrants, final year students, and postgraduates alike.

The AWC is located on floor 2, in the James Hardiman Library.

Opening hours and updated booking process for support, check the website: http://www.library.universityofgalway.ie/awc/ or contact the AWC manager: irina.ruppo@universityofgalway.ie

Student Counselling Service

This service is available to all full and part-time registered students at University of Galway, undergraduate and postgraduate. Each year, between 800 and 900 students have contact with the service. These include students who have come from school to college, mature students, international students and students with disabilities. Students can book appointments but there are also drop-in opportunities. The service's website also includes some self-help materials. For a list of FAQs see https://www.universityofgalway.ie/counsellors/faqs/. The service is located in 5 Distillery Road; when coming into college from Newcastle Road (Distillery Road entrance by AIB), it is on the right-hand side in a two-storey house. For further information and updates see https://www.universityofgalway.ie/counsellors/

Direct Tel: 091 492484

Ext.: 2482
E-mail: counselling@universityofgalway.ie

Code of Conduct

Below is a summary of key points from the university's code of conduct.

The guidelines that follow have been drawn up with reference to Policies and Procedures established by the University All students should familiarise themselves with these guidelines at: http://www.universityofgalway.ie/codeofconduct/

Any student who enrols for any course in the University in doing so accepts the objectives of the University and is giving a commitment, as a responsible individual and as a member of the University community, to behave in an appropriate manner.

The Student Code of Conduct offers guidelines as to the norms of behaviour that accord with the obligations of students, but where more specific requirements are in place, they are available on the University's web site. It should be noted that Students of the University cannot claim any privileged position in regard to the general law of the land.

Rights and obligations of staff, students and others

- Every student and staff member has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Students are expected to acknowledge the authority of the staff of the University, both academic and support staff, in the performance of their duties.

Academic Conduct

- Every student is expected to approach his/her academic endeavours with honesty and integrity.
- Each student shall comply with his/her academic programme requirements in terms of lectures, practical assignments and assessments and with all University registration, fees, library, use of computer facilities and examination regulations associated therewith.
- No student shall provide false or misleading information to or withhold relevant information from any party regarding his/her academic achievements.

General

- Every student is required to behave in a manner which enables and encourages participation in the educational activities of the University and does not disrupt the functioning of the University.
- The maintenance of the good name of the University is in the interests of all of the University community and, as the standing of the University depends largely on those who represent it, it is the duty of its students at all times to behave, both inside and outside of the University, in a way which does not bring discredit to the University.
    - The observance of the Code, so far as it applies to the individual student, is his/her **personal responsibility**.

- Breach of any of the regulations of the University will be dealt with either under the appropriate approved University procedure or the Disciplinary Procedure. (The Disciplinary Procedure is laid out in Section 6.0 of the Code of Conduct.)

Some Examples of Breaches of the Student Code of Conduct:

- Obstruction of members of the University staff or other students in the performance of their duties.
- Any violence or threats of violence or any abuse, either physical or verbal.
- Any behaviour that endangers the welfare of the individual or others.
- Making derogatory comments or allegations against a member of staff or other student either in person or utilising electronic media such as e-mail or social networking sites.
- Cheating, plagiarism and circumstances where a student submits the work of another as his/her own or allows another person to undertake an assessment or assignment for him/her.
- Failure, without reasonable explanation, to carry out all or any of the following to the satisfaction of the Academic Council: **attend lectures**; attend prescribed practical classes, or laboratory, drawing-office or clinical sessions; **attend tutorial classes**; **meet requirements laid down for project-work, essay-writing, or any other prescribed course exercise.**
- Conduct likely to disrupt teaching, examinations, study, research, or administration of the University.
- Failure to abide by the regulations governing enrolment on the academic programme, **attendance at lectures** and other prescribed exercises and the conduct of examinations.
- Abuse of alcohol or other substances on the campus, including contravention of the regulations which may be made from time to time relating to the consumption of alcohol or other substances on the campus.

Conduct in Class

The university is not just a preparation for professional life; it is itself a professional environment. The following conventions thus must be observed in all classes, by both staff and students:

The Basics

- Students and staff are obliged to attend all classes, on time and for their entirety.
- Students and staff are obliged to arrive at class with material prepared in advance
- Students are obliged to participate fully in all class activities as set by the teacher.

Classes start on the hour and finish ten to the hour (e.g., start at 14.00, finish at 14.50). Please note that:

- Students and teachers are expected to be present at least two or three minutes before the hour, so that classes can begin punctually.
- Students and teachers should leave the class as quickly as possible at ten to the hour so that the next group can have access to the room

More information on attendance, punctuality etc. can be found elsewhere in this handbook.

General Conduct in Class

The following conventions exist for the sake of all students and staff.

- Mobile phones must be switched off during classes. Students must not take calls, send text messages, browse the internet, participate in social media, or otherwise make use of their mobile devices.
- Laptops and tablets may be used for notetaking or for in-class research, but students should not engage in activities that would distract them or a fellow student (social media, browsing the internet, etc.)
- While it is acceptable to bring water to practical classes, students may not eat during classes or in classrooms. Hot drinks such as coffee may not be brought to classes, especially in studios, due to the risk of scalding.
- Class participation does not just involve expressing opinions, it also involves listening to other people's opinions. Please be respectful of your fellow students by ensuring that you are not dominating discussions at the expense of others, going off on irrelevant tangents, or otherwise behaving inappropriately.
- Debate is a normal and indeed important element of university life. You should respect the right of people to hold opinions that are different from your own, even about matters that you feel passionately about. You should also expect occasionally to encounter views and opinions that you find challenging, upsetting, offensive, confusing or contentious, and it is important in any democratic and open society that there is space for the expression of views that you do not agree with. We should strive always to respect the individual, regardless of his or her views.
- It is unacceptable for students or staff to express either in class or in written documentation any disparaging remarks about individuals or peoples based on their gender identification, their age, their religious convictions, their race, their ethnicity, membership of the travelling community, nationality, sexuality, political convictions, or any other personal characteristics. This does not preclude criticism of institutions, movements or nations, but the requirement is the protection of the dignity of the individual, in keeping with the NUI Galway student and staff codes of conduct.
- Students will occasionally want to share private information with their classmates, whether in class discussions or in their devised or self-created performances. This is not necessarily discouraged but students should consider the likely impact of any revelations on their fellow students and are required to seek approval from staff before divulging personal information. When such revelations are made, the class must protect their fellow student's privacy by not discussing private matters outside of the classroom setting.

- Students should not under any circumstances attend classes or practicals under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Being hungover is considered being 'under the influence of alcohol'.
- Please bring all rubbish away with you from classes (water bottles, coffee cups, wastepaper, etc.).
- Please return all classes to the state you found them in when the class is over.
- You must only smoke in designated areas in the campus. The nearest smoking area is at the Hardiman building, or else off-campus over the bridge behind the Centre for DTP.
- All of the above guidelines apply when students are working off-campus, including at theatre visits, internships, etc.
- When in doubt… treat your fellow students and staff as you would yourself to be treated!

Attendance, Punctuality, Sick Leave

Regular and punctual attendance is essential not just to the development of the student but also of the group. For that reason, we place strong emphasis on the need for all students to attend all classes.

Every teacher will complete a record of attendance. Students will sign in to every class. Students who are late must also sign in, marking clearly the time at which they arrived.

If students miss a class due to illness, they must inform the course lecturer in advance by email and should bring a medical certificate to the next class. This will be kept on file.

Students who miss in-class assessments (e.g., group presentations or performances) due to illness ***may***, upon presentation of a certificate, be given permission to defer that portion of their assessment until the end of the semester. Normally this will involve students being obliged to sit an additional examination during the exam period.

Students who miss in-class assessments (e.g., group presentations or performances) without a medical certificate will automatically lose the marks for that assessment and may not make alternative arrangements.

Lateness to class is unacceptable under any circumstances. Repeat offenders will be subject to disciplinary action, including the application of a penalty to their final marks.

The presentation of a medical certificate does not automatically entitle a student to miss a class or hand in work late.

Policy on Extensions, Repeats and Deferrals

Essay deadlines and penalties

In line with the University policy on Extenuating Circumstances, procedures are in place in the College to manage applications from students who experience

extenuating circumstances that may negatively impact the student's performance in assessment.

Students may apply centrally to the College Extenuating Circumstances Committee if the following conditions are met:

- The student experiences serious, unavoidable, unpredictable and except circumstances outside of their control, which may negatively impact the student's performance in assessment
- The affected assessment is worth **20% or greater** of the final module mark
- Supporting documentation is provided, as outlined in the attached policy
- If supporting documentation is not available, students should submit an application to the College Extenuating Circumstances Committee describing the nature of their circumstances, and they will normally be asked to meet with our Student Support Officer (Dr Rosemary Crosse) to help evaluate an appropriate course of action.

Students can access our CASSCS online form from the Undergraduate Student Supports webpage.

If an assessment is worth less than 20% of the final module mark and/or a student requires an extension of 7 days or less, they should liaise with their Local Year Co-ordinator or Programme Director.

Note: If an extension of more than 7 days is required or an affected assessment is worth at least 20% of the overall module mark, students must apply to the College Extenuating Circumstances Committee to request additional time. Local Year Co-ordinators or Programme Directors cannot grant extensions beyond a one-week window. One application listing all affected modules and assignments should be made to cover the student's full circumstances.

Students who possess a LENS report that uses specific language about the need for 'leniency with deadlines' and who have no additional compounding circumstances are not required to apply to the College Extenuating Circumstances for additional time. Instead, they should liaise directly with their module instructor and / or relevant local Year Co-ordinator / Programme Director to agree appropriate deadline extensions. The only exception is where there are additional circumstances (e.g. a medical emergency) unrelated to those outlined in the LENS report.

General Notes

Please note the following:

- Late work is penalised at a rate of 2% per day (including weekends and bank holidays)
- Work that is any more than two weeks' late (14 days) cannot be accepted even if students have medical certificates etc. Students whose work has not

been submitted by this time will automatically be listed as having failed or must seek permission from the College Office to defer the assessment.

- At the end of the exam period in Sem.2 there will be a hard deadline that might be sooner than 2 weeks after deadline after which assessments cannot be accepted.
- If you provide a cert saying that you were sick for two days, then you can hand in your work two days' late without penalty. But if your cert says you were sick for two days and you hand in a week late, you will lose marks.
- We ask students to make every effort to submit work on time. Late essays lead to administrative difficulties and may delay the processing of your results.

Who to contact if your work is late

In order to save you time, it is important that you contact the most appropriate people to help you with your query. You can of course discuss things with other people, including staff, but the people below are the main points of contact.

Your Query	Who to Contact
If you are confused about the course or the assessment	Lecturer or course tutor
If you want an extension	Refer to pages 11 & 12
If you need to defer your assessment because of serious illness or bereavement	The College of Arts Office, artsundergrad@universityofgalway.ie Catherine McCurry, Administrative Assistant Toni Pehar, Administrative Assistant
If you are ill	Your GP or other medical professional. Medical certificates should be submitted to the Philosophy Discipline Administrator, María Bernal Navarro, or the SOHAP School administrator, Helena Condon.
If you are experiencing stress, anxiety or other personal problems	Your GP, the student counselling service, the SU welfare office.
If you want to pass on documentation to explain lateness – which you should do once you have submitted your assignments	Philosophy Discipline Administrator, María Bernal Navarro or the SOHAP School administrator, Helena Condon. Philosophyadmin@universityofgalway.ie

	Sohap@universityofgalway.ie
For anything else	Philosophy staff are always happy to meet students during office hours and can discuss any issues that you wish to raise.

If you fail a module

If you fail a module, you have an opportunity to repeat it. This will usually happen during the summer months. Students must pay a repeat examination fee to the university in such cases. Your transcript will state that you failed the module. Repeat marks are capped at 40% for most years. This in turn is likely to impact payment of your SUSI grant.

Students in First or Second year should note that failing a module may have an impact on the success of any applications to attend an international university.

If you choose not to sit your repeat examination, you must either leave the university or repeat the year. If you repeat the year, you need only repeat those modules that you failed (e.g. if you pass four modules in second year but fail two, and choose to repeat the year, you would only need to repeat the two modules that you failed).

If you need to defer an assessment

Deferral means postponing a university examination from the end of the semester to the summer period. This will usually be granted in cases of serious illness or bereavement of an immediate family member. Decisions about deferral can only be made by the College of Arts office.

General Information on Final Year

Welcome to Final Year! For your Third or Final Year (sometimes called Third or Final Arts) you must have passed Second Year successfully: if so, congratulations! We hope you will find this upcoming year challenging, exciting, and enriching.

In Third or Final Year, you continue to pursue the two subjects taken at Second Year. Each subject makes up 30 ECTS over the course of the academic year: making a total of 60 ECTS for the year.

Attendance at lectures, seminars, tutorials and other timetabled classes regardless of whether they are online or on campus is actually only a small part of the total effort that you need to put in to succeed. All of the assessment, coursework and available credit are based on the idea that you are spending about 40 hours per week, every week of the semester, on learning and assessment. This just represents a full-time workload and is the standard model used across Ireland and all courses that use called ECTS – European Credit Transfer System.

Final Year Philosophy Structure

All students take six courses making up a total of **30 ECTS credits in Philosophy** over the course of the academic year. Each course is worth 5 ECTS in weighting, corresponding roughly to at least 125-150 hours of work.

Students in **BA Denominated** programmes do the same as students studying for the denominated Joint-Honours BA degree, as described above.

All third-year courses are optional. You should pick **three modules each semester**. There may be occasional conflicts with other subjects. Before you register, make sure there are no conflicts with modules that you will be taking in your other subject.

*Please note that to register for year-long module **PI399** you must have achieved a Second-Year grade of 2:1 or higher in Philosophy.*

Semester One Students are required to take THREE out of the following Modules:

- PI315 Philosophy of Mind (Dr. O'Reilly)
- PI327 Philosophy of Religion (Prof. Ó Murchadha)
- PI3100 Kant's Theoretical Philosophy (Dr. Doyle)
- PI3103 Environmental Ethics (Dr Ward)
- PI3104 Philosophy and Culture in Context (with placement) (Dr. Elvis & Dr. Förster)
- PI3106 Formal Logic 2 (Dr. Tosh)
- PI399 Extended Essay (part 1) (Dr. Felzmann)*

Semester Two

Students are required to take THREE out of the following Modules.

- PI310 Topics in Applied Philosophy (Dr. Hull)

- PI3108 Topics in post-Kantian Philosophy (Dr. Doyle)
- PI3110 Philosophy of Literature (Dr. Dianetti)
- PI3111 Topics in Philosophy of Science (Dr Tosh)
- PI2101 Information Ethics (Dr Yvonne Förster)
- PI399 Extended Essay (part 2) (Dr Felzmann)

* PI399 is a year-long 5ECTS module for which you register in Semester 1 and which you will attend over both semesters. Semester 2 will require more work to complete your research and writing; for workload reasons it is advisable to pick PI399 and three other modules in Semester 1 and two modules in Semester 2.

Registration

As a returning student to University of Galway, you must register online at www.universityofgalway.ie/registration. This facility opens on Monday 17th August 2026 for all incoming students who passed the Summer exams, and on the 7th of September 2026, for all who took repeat Autumn exams.

Queries regarding registration difficulties, particularly difficulty accessing Canvas for all courses, should be addressed to reghelp@universityofgalway.ie

Semester dates

Academic year 2026/27	
Start of teaching	Monday, 7th of September 2026
End of teaching	Friday, 27th of November (12 weeks of teaching)
Study week	Monday, 30th November to Friday, 4th of December 2026
Semester 1 exams start	Monday, 7th of December
Semester 1 exams end	Friday, 18th of December (10 days of exams)
2027	
Start of teaching	Monday, 11th of January 2027
End of teaching	Friday, 2nd of April 2027 (12 weeks of teaching)
Easter	Good Friday 26th of March to Easter Monday 29th of March 2027
Study week	Monday, 12th of April to Friday, 16th of April 2027
Semester 2 Exams start	Tuesday, 19th of April 2027
Semester 2 Exams end	Friday, 6th of May (13 days of exams)
Autumn Repeat Exams	Tuesday 3rd to Friday 13th of August 2027 (9 days of exams)

Canvas

Familiarity with our Virtual Learning Environment Canvas is essential. Course pages on Canvas will also contain all notes, PowerPoint slides, further reading and communications from lecturers. Your courses also all require submission of materials through Canvas. You must be properly registered in order to access Canvas. Learning to work with Canvas is the responsibility of individual students, but support services are available on campus. Follow this link for more information on Canvas and how to make the most of its services.

Timetables

3rd & Final Arts Semester One 2026/2027

Code	Title	Lecturer	Lecture Times & Locations
PI315	Philosophy of Mind	Dr John O'Reilly	**Mondays** 9-11 CA118
PI327	Philosophy of Religion	Prof. Felix Ó Murchadha	**Wednesdays,** 4-6pm Tyndall Theatre, SC005
PI399	Extended Essay	Dr Heike Felzmann	**Mondays, 12-1** **(not convening every week in the first half of semester; check session plan on Canvas for details)** CA115
PI3100	Kant's Theoretical Philosophy	Dr Tsarina Doyle	**Tuesdays** 11 – 1pm **AC201**
PI3103	Environmental Ethics	Dr Nora Ward	Mondays, 4-6pm, **AMB G008** ***NEW DOUBLE SLOT TIME & VENUE***
PI3104	Philosophy and Culture in Context	Dr Lucy Elvis & Dr Yvonne Förster	Thursdays 12-5 pm (4 workshops) **(*) dates and venues**

PI3106	Formal Logic 2	Dr. Nick Tosh	**Tuesdays** **5-7** Seminar Rm, 19 Distillery Rd

(*) PI3104 seminars and workshops dates **(The Bridge Room – Hardiman Building)**

- Initial 2-hour induction on Thursday, 10th of September.
- 4 workshops on Thursdays (12-5pm) on 1st October, 15th October, 5th November and 19th November.
- 2-hour mandatory essay writing clinic on Thursday, 26th November from 12-2pm.

3rd & Final Arts Semester Two 2026/2027

There is no need to sign up to tutorials at the beginning of the year – lecturers will make and communicate any arrangements that might be in place with regard to splitting their classes for tutorials. All modules will provide an interactive component to students, but not all will offer separate tutorials.

Code	Title	Lecturer	Lecture Times & Locations
PI310	Topics in Applied Philosophy: Disability, Poverty and Human Freedom	Dr Richard Hull	**Tuesdays, 12-1, CSB-1007** **Wednesdays, 3-4, AC213**
PI3108	Topics in post-Kantian Philosophy	Dr Tsarina Doyle	**Tuesdays, 10-12** **19 Distillery Rd, Seminar Rm**
PI3110	Philosophy of Literature	Dr. Michela Dianetti	**Thursdays, 3-5, CA101**
PI3111	Topics in Philosophy of Science	Dr Nick Tosh	**Tuesdays, 5-7, CA002**
PI2101	Information Ethics	Dr Yvonne Förster	**Tuesdays, 2-3, AC214** **Thursdays, 1-2, AC214**
PI399	Extended Essay	Dr Heike Felzmann	Mondays, 12-1 **19 Distillery Rd, Seminar Rm**

Individual Course Details

Semester 1

Extended Essay

(year-long module)

Code	Semesters	ECTS
PI399	1 & 2	5

Lecturer: Dr Heike Felzmann

Course description: The extended essay is an independent piece of research, intended to allow you to demonstrate the full range of your research skills and philosophical understanding of a topic of your choice. While you should not be afraid of being ambitious in terms of the argument that you present, you are expected to identify a clearly defined and specific research question, demonstrate high standards in literature research and present a well-supported and specific argument. You are required to discuss the choice of research question with a Philosophy lecturer during the first six weeks of Semester 1 and obtain their agreement to be your supervisor, and you will be developing your research and writing step-by-step over the two semesters. Work for this module consists in progressing your research and writing in defined stages, reflecting on different research-related issues within the group, presenting your work-in-progress to the class and attending supervisory meetings several times during the year. It will be assessed by a portfolio of continuous assessment and the final essay.

Prerequisites: 2.1 average in Year 2 Philosophy. For exceptions consult the final year co-ordinator.

Teaching and learning methods: Self-directed research, supported by group meetings and individual supervisory meetings with your assigned supervisor.

Methods of assessment and examination: Extended essay (80%) and portfolio of progress work (20%).

Core texts:

Supporting materials on the research process will be made available through Canvas. Readings on the research topic will be determined in collaboration with the individual supervisor; the main research work takes place between students and supervisor.

Philosophy of Mind

Code	Semester	ECTS

PI315	1	5

Lecturers: Dr John O'Reilly

Course Description: The course begins with an introduction to three influential approaches to mental phenomena – Logical Behaviourism, Identity Theory, and the emergence of Functionalism. The second part of the course builds on these foundations via an exploration of David Lewis' Analytic Functionalism and Jerry Fodor's Psycho-functionalism. At this stage, we are ready to look at the Computational Theory of Mind and Daniel Dennett's Intentional Stance. The final section of the course focuses on John Searle's critique of the Computational approach to the mind with his "Chinese Room" thought experiment and on the advent of Embodied Cognition as a criticism of overly mind-centred accounts of cognition.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based.

Methods of assessment and examination: The course will be evaluated by continuous assessment and final essay.

Core texts:

Heil, John. *Philosophy of Mind*, Routledge, 2013.

Kim, Jaegwon Kim. *Philosophy of Mind*, Westview Press Colorado, 2011.

Kind, Amy, *Philosophy of Mind: The Basics*, Routledge, 2020. *

Mandik, Pete. *This is Philosophy of Mind*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2014. *

Shapiro, Laurence. Embodied Cognition, Routledge, 2011.

(* Introductory texts to get you going)

Philosophy of Religion

Code	Semester	ECTS
PI327	1	5

Lecturer: Prof. Felix Ó Murchadha

Course description: This course will discuss one of the principal problems of the philosophy of religion, namely the relation of faith and reason. The relation of faith and reason has been a matter of controversy since the early Christian thinkers. In modernity, with a revised account of reason and rationality, the question became increasingly complex and the philosophical positions on this issue increasingly divergent. We will look at two philosophers: Kant and Kierkegaard. Following upon

that, we will discuss a number of themes including forgiveness, language, love, violence and time.

Prerequisites: None
Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials.

Methods of assessment and examination: Continuous Assessment (35%) and a Final Assignment (Essay) (65%)

Core texts:

Arendt, H.: *The Human Condition*, Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1998

Derrida, J.: "To Forgive: The Unforgiveable and the Imprescriptible" in Caput et al.:

Questioning God, Bloomington, Indiana UP, 2001, pp. 21-51.

Derrida, J.: "How to Avoid Speaking: Denials" in H. Coward et. al (eds): *Derrida and Negative Theology* (SUNY Press, 1992), pp. 73-142

Kant: *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason.* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998)

Also published in: *Kant and Rational Theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), pp. 39-216

Kierkegaard: *Fear and Trembling*. (Cambridge: Cambridge

University Press, 2006) Philips, D.Z.: *The Concept of Prayer*,

Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1981.

Ricoeur, P.: "Love and Justice", *Figuring the Sacred*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995

Kant's Theoretical Philosophy

Code	Semester	ECTS
PI3100	1	5

Lecturer: Dr. Tsarina Doyle

Course description: This module examines Kant's theoretical philosophy by focussing on his arguments for transcendental idealism in the Critique of Pure Reason. Particular attention will be paid to Kant's ambitious aim to establish the objectivity of Newtonian science whilst leaving room for the possibility of God, freedom and immortality by focussing on his arguments for the transcendental ideality of space and time, his argument for the transcendental deduction of the categories, his distinction

between phenomena and noumena, the argument of the Analogies and Antinomies. The modules also incorporates a number of revision exercises to help with student learning and understanding of the text.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials.

Methods of assessment and examination: Assessment is based on a written essay at the end of the semester with continuous assessment added to the evaluation.

Core text: Selected passages from the following texts shall be considered:

Sebastian Gardner, *Routledge philosophy guidebook to Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*, London; Routledge, 1999.

Kant, Immanuel, *Critique of Pure Reason,* (MacMillan, 1929), translated by Norman Kemp Smith.

James O'Shea, *Kant's Critique of Pure Reason: An Introduction*, Acumen Publishing.

Jay F. Rosenberg, *Accessing Kant*, Clarendon Press; 2005. Oxford.

(A detailed list of readings will be distributed at the beginning of the course.)

Environmental Ethics

Code	Semester	ECTS
PI3103	1	5

Lecturers: Dr Nora Ward

Course description: This class will focus on the ethical, ecological and social dimensions of environmental issues. We begin with an exploration of the perception of nature in Western thought, as well as an overview of influential texts that have shaped the field of environmental ethics. As such, we will explore the relationship between human and non-human nature, addressing questions such as "Does non-human nature matter for its own sake, or simply for the sake of fulfilling human interests? What about the value of holistic entities such as ecosystems? What is intrinsic value anyway, and how does it differ from instrumental value?" Towards the latter half of the course, we will focus on the philosophical implications of international environmental issues such as climate change, indigenous rights, ecofeminism, environment justice and eco-terrorism.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: This course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials.

Methods of assessment and examination: The course will be evaluated by continuous assessment and final essay.

Core text: A list of readings will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Philosophy of Culture in Context

Code	Semester	ECTS
PI3104	1	5

Lecturers: Dr Lucy Elvis & Dr. Yvonne Förster

Course description: This module explores philosophical approaches to the production and consumption of art and culture in contemporary society through an examination of four themes. Culture and reality, culture and technology, culture, culture and alienation and culture and violence. For each theme two different philosophical perspective will be explored to examine the dynamics of contemporary cultural production and consumption.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: This course is workshop based. Four workshops on four Thursday afternoons across the semester. One introductory lecture and one essay writing tutorial will also be offered to help students navigate the course. In-person attendance at all teaching is mandatory.

Methods of assessment and examination: Students are offered a choice of two assessment streams assessment model A: Placement (at TULCA festival of visual Arts), Reflection and Final Essay, model B Workshop, Podcast and Final Essay,

Core texts: All essential and supplementary readings will be available on Canvas, with a full list available at the start of the semester.

Formal Logic 2

Code	Semester	ECTS
PI3106	1	5

Lecturer: Dr Nick Tosh

Course description: This course is the sequel to the 2nd-year Formal Logic module PI2102. It introduces a new proof method -- truth trees -- and a mostly new formal language -- predicate logic with identity. The course text is Paul Teller's _Logic Primer_, freely available online (http://tellerprimer.ucdavis.edu/). Readings and practice exercises will be set each week. Familiarity with material taught in PI2102 is assumed.

Prerequisites: You need to have passed PI2102 Formal Logic or have an equivalent level of experience with formal logic.

Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials.

Methods of assessment and examination: end of term assignment, supplemented by several in-class written tests.

Core Texts: Paul Teller, A Modern Formal Logic Primer, https://tellerprimer.ucdavis.edu/

Semester 2:

Topics in Applied Philosophy: Disability, Poverty and Human Freedom

Code	Semester	ECTS
PI310	2	5

Lecturers: Dr Richard Hull

Course description: This course is concerned with the application of the study of philosophy to issues of pressing public concern. It takes the experiences of disability and social deprivation as case studies and looks at how such experiences can best be theoretically articulated. Particular attention is given to rival theories of human freedom and their relevance to contemporary social and political debates. Attention is also focused on how different theories of justice and morality imply very different social responses to the issues of disability and deprivation. Subjects covered include Rawls' theory of freedom, Nozick's libertarianism, the acts/omissions distinction and the doctrine of double effect. The course is designed to give students an analytical background that can be used to explore other contemporary social and political issues.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials.

Methods of assessment and examination: Assessment is based on a written essay at the end of the semester.

Core text:

Barnes, C., *Disabled people in Britain and discrimination*, Hurst and co, 1991. [346.42013 BAR]

Bynoe, I., Oliver, M., & Barnes, C., *Equal Rights for Disabled People: the case for a new law*, Institute for Public Policy Research, 1991. [346.013]

Glover, J., *Causing death and saving lives*, Penguin Books, 1977. [179.7 GLO]

Gray, T, *Freedom*, Macmillan, 1991. [323.44]

Kymlicka, W. *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, Clarendon Press, 1990. [320.50904]

Nozick, R., *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, Blackwell, 1974. [320.101 NOZ]

Pogge, T.W, *Realizing Rawls*, Cornell University Press, 1989. [320.001 RAW.P]

Rawls, J. *A Theory of Justice*, Oxford University Press, 1974. [340.11].

PI3108 Topics in post-Kantian Philosophy

Code	Semester	ECTS
PI3108	2	5

Lecturer: Dr. Tsarina Doyle

Course description: This module engages in an in-depth investigation of the possibility of metaphysics in post-Kantian philosophy with particular emphasis on Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophical thought. The first part of the module investigates Nietzsche's interpretation of the meaning and significance of Kant's transcendental idealism. It also explores how Nietzsche's own philosophical writings, both early and late, are informed by his understanding of and response to Kant. The second part of the module explores prominent interpretations of Nietzsche's metaphysics, including the panpsychist, ontic structural realist, neo-Darwinian, constructivist and dispositional readings. The implications of these interpretations for how we should understand Nietzsche's philosophical psychology, philosophy of value and political philosophy will be explored in detail. Students taking this module will be expected to prepare in advance for class and to actively participate in class discussions.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials.

Methods of assessment and examination: Continuous Assessment- Textual comprehension exercise - (20%) and a Final Assignment (Essay) (80%)

Recommended book resources:

Ansell Pearson, Keith and Large, Duncan (eds) 2006, *The Nietzsche Reader*, Blackwell Oxford

Supplementary book resources:

Brusotti, Marco and Herman Siemens (eds) 2017, *Nietzsche, Kant and the Problem of Metaphysics*, Bloomsbury London

Tsarina Doyle 2018, *Nietzsche's Metaphysics of the Will to Power: The Possibility of Value*, Cambridge University Press Cambridge

R. Kevin Hill 2003, *Nietzsche's Critiques: The Kantian Foundations of his Thought*, Clarendon Press Oxford

Peter Poellner 1995, *Nietzsche and Metaphysics*, Oxford University Press Oxford

Justin Remhof 2023, *Nietzsche as Metaphysician*, Routledge New York

John Richardson 2004, *Nietzsche's New Darwinism*, Oxford University Press Oxford

PI3110 Philosophy of Literature - new module in 26/27

Code	Semester	ECTS
PI3110	2	5

Lecturer: Dr. Michela Dianetti

Course description: Course description: This module explores the complex and evolving relationship between philosophy and literary forms and its significance not only for literary studies but also for drama and cinema. One part of the module explores philosophical thinking about literature, exploring its purpose, value, and function, and issues such as the ethics of authorship and readership, the nature of truth in fiction, literature's epistemic and moral potential, the paradox of tragic pleasure. These debates will also be extended to drama and cinema, engaging with theories of spectatorship and performance. A second part explores philosophical thinking within and through literary forms drawing on authors such as Jean Paul Sartre and Iris Murdoch. Assessment offers a choice between critical philosophical analysis and creative philosophical writing: students will either write a philosophical essay about a novel, movie, or play, or create and workshop their own creative writing, giving life to philosophical ideas.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials. In the first half of the module, tutorials will help the students with the primary sources. In the second part, they will have the format of a workshop to guide them in their creative writing process.

Methods of assessment and examination: Continuous Assessment: In-class participation (10%), Peer-Feedback: Students will present a draft of their final writing to the class and receive feedback from their peers (25%) and a Final Assignment - A philosophical essay on a novel, play or film (65%).

Core Texts:

Eileen John,Dominic McIver Lopes 2004, The Philosophy of Literature, Wiley-Blackwell [ISBN: 1405112093]
Iris Murdoch 1978, The Fire & the Sun, Oxford University Press, USA [ISBN: 0198245807]

Recommended book resources: Other essential and supplementary readings will be available on Canvas, with a full list available at the start of the semester.

PI3111 Topics in Philosophy of Science – new module in 26/27

Code	Semester	ECTS
PI3111	2	5

Lecturer: Dr. Nick Tosh

Course description: This module introduces students to a selection of major topics in contemporary philosophy of science, including the problem of induction, confirmation theory, and theories of causation.

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is by written exam, supplemented by some short in-class written tests.

Recommended Book Resources:
David Hume 1757, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Sections 4, 5, 7
Peter Godfrey-Smith 2021, Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science, 2 Ed., University of Chicago Press [ISBN: 978-022661865]
A. C. Grayling, Philosophy 1: A Guide Through the Subject, 3, Oxford University Press [ISBN: 9780198752431]

Supplementary Book Resources:
Tim Lewens 2015, The Meaning of Science, Pelican [ISBN: 978-0141977]
James Woodward 2003, Making Things Happen: A Theory of Causal Explanation, Chapter 1, Oxford University Press [ISBN: 978-019988255]

Information Ethics

Code	Semester	ECTS
PI2101	2	5

Lecturer: Dr. Yvonne Förster

Course description: This module aims to provide students with a critical understanding of current and emerging ethical concerns in relation to the role of information technologies play in our everyday lives, including issues such as privacy, surveillance capitalism, online interaction, and engagement with artificial agents.

Philosophical reflection of core concepts will underlie the discussion of emerging concerns. Preparation of weekly readings is an essential requirement for participation.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials.

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is by continuous assessment, final essay and interactive oral examination.

Core Texts:
Readings, primarily consisting of recent academic journal articles, and other supporting materials will be provided for each topic on Blackboard. The following are useful preparatory reading materials, but not required class readings:

Luciano Floridi (Ed) (2010). *The Cambridge Handbook of information and Computer Ethics*
Patrick Lin, Keith Abney, & George Bekey (Eds.). (2012). *Robot ethics: the ethical and social implications of robotics*. MIT Press.
Patrick Lin, Keith Abney, & Ryan Jenkins (Eds.). (2017). *Robot ethics 2.0: From autonomous cars to artificial intelligence*. Oxford University Press
Deborah Lupton (2016). The Quantified Self, Polity Press.
Helen Nissenbaum (2009). *Privacy in Context: Technology, Policy and integrity of Social Life*, Stanford University Press.
Shannon Vallor (2015). *Social Networking and Ethics*, https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-social-networking/
Jeroen van den Hoven et al. (2019). *Privacy and Information Technology*, https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/it-privacy/
Shoshanna Zuboff (2019). *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power.* Profile Books

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

What is Plagiarism and how is it defined in the University?

Plagiarism is taking the credit for someone else's ideas and making out that you thought of these ideas yourself. This is a form of intellectual theft. In third level colleges, plagiarism is a serious offence. It merits a severe penalty, and the student may lose the entire marks for that assignment and receive disciplinary action. You need to be aware of how serious an offence plagiarism is, and take care to avoid it in your assignments, and particularly in a thesis.

Plagiarism is defined by the Academic Council of the University as follows:

1. Plagiarism is the act of copying, including or directly quoting from, the work of another without adequate acknowledgement. The submission of plagiarised materials for assessment purposes is fraudulent, and all suspected cases will be investigated and dealt with appropriately by the University following the procedures outlined here [University of Galway Code of Practice for Dealing with Plagiarism located here. and with reference to the Disciplinary Code.
2. All work submitted by students for assessment purposes is accepted on the understanding that it is their own work and written in their own words except where explicitly referenced using the accepted norms and formats of the appropriate academic discipline.
3. Whilst some cases of plagiarism can arise through poor academic practice with no deliberate intent to cheat, this still constitutes a breach of acceptable practice and requires to be appropriately investigated and acted upon. (See University of Galway Code of Practice for Dealing with Plagiarism)
4. The Discipline of Philosophy has a dedicated academic integrity advisor, Dr Richard Hull, who is responsible for dealing with suspected and reported cases of plagiarism and acting in accordance with the University's Code of Practice for Dealing with Plagiarism. Please see for further details.

Examples of plagiarising the work of other students

- Getting someone else to write your essay, report, assignment or thesis.
- Using ChatGPT or other generative AI applications inappropriately in the development of your work, by generating academic content (even if the wording is rephrased) or specific written material and presenting those as your own.
- Taking material written by someone else, putting your own name to it, and handing it in as your own work.
- Copying parts of the work of another student/author and including them in your own essay, report or thesis without acknowledging the source.
- Taking ideas, theories, direct quotations, diagrams, statistics, tables, photographs, graphs from a published source or the Internet, and including them in your assignment without stating a source.
- Allowing another student to copy your work is also considered to be plagiarism and both students are subject to penalty.
- Plagiarised work in group assignments or projects can be caused by the contribution of a single student, but the group submits and is therefore fully responsible for that. The penalty affects all students in the group.
  To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use: another person's idea, opinion, or theory; any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings — any pieces of information whatsoever that are not common knowledge; quotations of another person's actual spoken or written words; or paraphrase of another person's spoken or written words.

Examples of plagiarism from published sources

- **Direct quotation**: Using the exact words of another person without giving them credit for it.

- **Paraphrasing**: Putting someone else's ideas into your own words without giving them credit by citing the source for the ideas.
- **Using statistics, tables or a graphic** (diagram, figure, picture and so on) without citing a source.
- **Summarising material** from a source without acknowledging where the ideas came from.

Fair use: Remember, you cannot base your thesis on chunks of material 'borrowed' from your reading materials. Instead, you must form your own opinions about the thesis topic and use your reading materials fairly to support your own ideas, making sure to cite the sources of everything you use.

Common Knowledge: A lot of information is considered 'common knowledge', so you do not have to quote a source for it. For example, Galileo discovered that the earth goes around the sun. Up until his discovery, everyone thought that the sun circled the earth. Even though this new idea was thought up by Galileo, we do not need to cite him as the source— this information (fact) has become common knowledge, something that 'everyone knows'. As a rule of thumb, any fact that you would be able to find in ten different books, you do not need to cite a source for it. Such facts are 'common knowledge'.

You must, however, cite a source for any new facts; say for example recent information about the impact of global warming on the climate of Ireland. It is only facts that have become common knowledge that you can use without citing a source. You must always cite a source for opinions— someone's personal point of view about a fact.

For example, if you are doing an assignment on a social issue, like equality in the workplace, you will probably draw facts from a range of published works, use ideas drawn from your own experiences, and may carry out some primary research like a survey based on a questionnaire. You will need to cite sources for all the opinions and facts taken from your reading materials and explain clearly what information comes from your survey.

Citation and Referencing Remember, everything you write must be verifiable. Please go to the Philosophy Web Page.