



O'LLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Visiting Student Handbook (Philosophy)

Academic year 2025/26

Welcome to the Philosophy Discipline at University of Galway. The following provides some practical information about the modules available to you.

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About Philosophy at University of Galway

Philosophy questions the basis of human knowledge, conduct, and value. Studying philosophy at University of Galway opens up a rigorous and disciplined investigation into fundamental questions under the guidance of internationally recognized scholars. Students learn to comprehend difficult material quickly and accurately, to think clearly and critically, and to write and speak persuasively. This is an excellent training with transferable skills that can be applied across a wide range of subject areas. In today's world of fast-paced change, philosophical skills of thinking flexibly and critically are becoming ever more important.

In Philosophy at University of Galway we teach and do research in all the main philosophical subject areas and historical periods, covering a wide range of philosophical authors, methods and core concerns. We aim to provide our students with a solid knowledge base about philosophical debates. We also equip them with the thinking and communication skills needed to engage in critical analysis of complex ideas and discuss them effectively and respectfully with others.

While being solidly grounded in the history of Philosophy, our Discipline has developed particular strengths in philosophical work that engages with contemporary concerns from a wide range of philosophical perspectives. The department has experts working on the nature of values and the mind, cultural difference and dialogue, environmental ethics and aesthetics, visual art, disability and social justice, public philosophy and philosophy for/with children, data analytics, science and expert knowledge, the ethics of information technologies, violence, community, identity and faith.

As lecturers we are constantly reviewing and developing our pedagogical approach to ensure students are given the best chance to develop their philosophical skills and knowledge. We always aim to be inclusive and respectful in our philosophical discussions.

Some background information

Students of Philosophy at University of Galway take a range of modules over a three-year period. Accordingly, our modules range from introductory modules for beginners in first year to progressively more advanced modules in second and third year. First year classes tend to be larger than those in second and third year. Visiting students may choose modules from the entire suite of courses listed

below over the three years. Lecturers are happy to advise you about the suitability of their modules for your particular requirements and level.

ECTS credits

All Philosophy modules *except for* PI2108 and PI2109 are worth 5 ECTS. Philosophy in Irish Schools modules are worth 10 ECTS each.

Registration

- There are no limitations on the numbers permitted to register for Philosophy modules
- There are no special internal discipline procedures for registering for Philosophy classes (with the exception of PI2108 and PI2109)
- Students register for their chosen modules by listing the class on the registration form provided by the International Office

Assessment

Individual lecturers will advise about the particular assessment methods for their respective modules. Some modules may use continual assessment in addition to the essay or exam. A guide to assessment for each module is provided in the module descriptions below. The lecturer of each module will confirm and explain the assessment procedures in detail at the beginning of the module.

Term dates

Academic year 2025/26	
Start of teaching	Monday, 8 th of September 2025 (First year modules – 15 th September)
End of teaching	Friday, 28 th of November (12 weeks of teaching)
Study week	Monday 1 st of December to Friday, 5 th of December 2025
Semester 1 exams start	Monday, 8 th of December
Semester 1 exams end	Friday, 19 th of December (10 days of exams)
2026	
Start of teaching	Monday, 12 th of January 2026
End of teaching	Thursday, 2 nd of April (12 weeks of teaching)

Easter	Good Friday 3 rd of April to Easter Monday 6 th of April 2026
Study week	Monday, 13 th of April to Friday, 17 th of April
Semester 2 Exams start	Tuesday, 21 st of April
Semester 2 Exams end	Friday, 8 th of May (13 days of exams)
August Exams	
	Tuesday, 4 th of August to Friday, 14 th of August 2026 (9 days of exams)

1st Arts Semester One 2025/2026

Lectures:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>
Monday 5-6	Introduction to the History of Philosophy	PI107	AC002 Anderson Theatre	Dr O. Richardson
Tuesday 4-5	Introduction to the History of Philosophy	PI107	AC001 O' Flaherty Theatre	Dr O. Richardson

PI 107 Introduction to the History of Philosophy: This module introduces students to key thinkers and ideas in the history of western philosophy. Since ancient philosophy is so central to this history, the first half of the course is devoted to some of its most important achievements in the work of the pre-Socratics, Plato and Aristotle. Attention is then turned to aspects of medieval philosophy, and the great rationalist and empiricist traditions of modern philosophy. Lectures will also be offered on Nietzsche, and the American Pragmatists.

PI107 Assessment: Assessment is by written examination.

1st Arts Semester Two 2025/2026

Monday 5-6	Introduction to Practical Ethics	PI108	AC002 Anderson Theatre	Dr R. Hull
Tuesday 4-5	Introduction to Practical Ethics	PI108	CSB-1006	Dr R. Hull

Course description: This course (Practical Ethics) provides a rigorous, but non-technical examination of a wide range of contemporary ethical issues. Indicative issues discussed include discrimination, free speech, sexuality, life and death, punishment and justice. Excerpts will be taken from the core texts listed below.

Prerequisites: None

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

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is by written essay at the end of the second semester (50%) and in-class examination(s) through the second semester (50%).

Core texts:

Andrew I. Cohen and Christopher Heath Wellman, eds., *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2005).

Peter Singer, *Practical Ethics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

Hugh La Follette, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Practical Ethics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

Hugh La Follette, ed., *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2006).

2nd Arts Semester One

- **PI2111 Themes in the History of Modern Philosophy: Rationalism**
- **PI210 Moral and Political Philosophy**
- **PI2113 Topics in Ancient Philosophy**
- **PI240 Bioethics**
- **PI246 American Pragmatism**
- **PI247 Nietzsche & Philosophy**
- **PI248 Phenomenology**
- **PI2108 Philosophy in Irish Schools (1)**

SECOND YEAR PHILOSOPHY SEMESTER 1, 2025/26					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	PI246 American Pragmatism CSB 1008 Dr T Doyle		PI2111 Themes in the History of Modern Philosophy: Rationalism CSB-G005 Prof F Ó Murchadha	PI248 Phenomenology CSB-1009 Prof F Ó Murchadha PI2108 Philosophy in Irish Schools ORB 214 Dr L Elvis Dr O Richardson	
10:00	PI246 American Pragmatism CSB 1008 Dr T Doyle	PI240 Bioethics CSB-1005 Dr N Ward		PI248 Phenomenology CSB-1009 Prof F Ó Murchadha PI2108 Philosophy in Irish Schools ORB 214 Dr Lucy Elvis Dr Orla Richardson	

11:00		PI2113 Topics in Ancient Philosophy CSB-1009 TBC			
12:00					
13:00			PI240 Bioethics Thomas Dillon Theatre Dr N Ward		
14:00					
15:00					
16:00	PI247 Nietzsche & Philosophy CA116a Dr Tsarina Doyle		PI210 Moral and Political Philosophy Tyndall Theatre, SC005 Dr O Richardson	PI2113 Topics in Ancient Philosophy CSB-1008 TBC	
17:00	PI247 Nietzsche & Philosophy CA116a Dr Tsarina Doyle		PI210 Moral and Political Philosophy Tyndall Theatre, SC005 Dr O Richardson	PI2111 Themes in the History of Modern Philosophy: Rationalism AC213 Prof F Ó Murchadha	

PI2111 Themes in the History of Modern Philosophy: Rationalism

Lecturer: Prof Felix Ó Murchadha

Course description: This course discusses the rationalist philosophy of René Descartes, Baruch Spinoza and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz. These philosophers each attempted to give a solid grounding to science, ethics and theology through a thoroughgoing rationalist metaphysics. In examining these accounts, we will pay special attention to the historical context of their respective systematic accounts of knowledge and reality.

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

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is by written exam, plus continuous assessment based on participation in Lectures and in small group exercises.

Core Texts:

Selected passages from the following text will be considered:

Roger Ariew & Eric Watkins (eds) *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1998).

Supplementary Reading: Felix Ó Murchadha: *The Formation of the Modern Self: Reason, Happiness and the Passions* (London: Bloomsbury, 2022)

PI210 Moral and Political Philosophy

Lecturer: Dr Orla Richardson

Course description: This module is an introduction to several important topics and questions in political and moral philosophy, such as: What, if anything, legitimises governmental authority and the exercise of political power? What is justice? What is the nature of citizenship? Is a free market a necessary component of a free society? What principles ground our fundamental notions of property rights, freedom, and equality? To explore these questions, we will begin by reading extracts from the Ancients, primarily Plato and Aristotle. We will then examine the ideas of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean Jacques Rousseau. Finally, we will review texts by nineteenth century authors, like J.S. Mill and Karl Marx. Overall, the aim of this course is to trace the ideas that have shaped our contemporary political systems and to equip us to think critically about what conditions make ‘the good society’ possible.

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

Methods of assessment and evaluation: Continuous assessment: four Discussion Questions submitted over the course of the semester. Each worth 5% of your final grade.

Final paper: submitted at the end of the semester. Worth 80% of your final grade

Core Texts:

Excerpts will be taken mainly from the following sources:

Steven M. Cahn, ed., *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy*. (Oxford

University Press, 2011)

PI2113 Topics in Ancient Philosophy

Lecturers: TBC

Course Description: This module focusses on a close reading of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* discussing the issues of the role of philosophical reflection with respect to human practice, the role of the 'good life' in understanding ethics, the place of virtue with respect to moral 'ought', the role of pleasure and self-love with respect to ethics, as well as questions of justice, happiness, and moral motivation. The course will comprise of a close reading of the text and develop an account of the refractions of Aristotle's text in the Philosophical Hermeneutics of Hans Georg-Gadamer, Nussbaum's *Aristotelian Social Democracy*, and the phronetic Social Science proposed by McIntyre in *After Virtue* and elsewhere.

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

Methods of assessment: Students will be assessed via continuous reflection, analysis and writing activities in class (30%) oral assessment (30%) and a final essay (40%) This means that attendance in class is key to success in this module as it will help you to a) build your grade and b) practice the skills that allow you to bring the content beyond the classroom.

Core Texts:

Aristotle, Nicomachean ethics. T.Irwin (trans.) Hackett Publishing, London, 2019.

Supplementary reading:

Amélie Oksenberg Rorty (ed.) *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics.* University of California Press, 1980.

De Caro, Mario, and Maria Silvia Vaccarezza, eds. *Practical wisdom: philosophical and psychological perspectives.* Routledge, 2021.

Hughes, Gerard J. *The Routledge Guidebook to Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics.* Routledge, 2013.

PI240 Bioethics

Lecturer: Dr Nora Ward

This module is concerned with contemporary issues in Bioethics. It will introduce a variety of normative ethical theories to provide a foundation for the critical analysis of a range of issues arising from the biological and medical sciences. These are likely to include abortion, euthanasia/physician assisted suicide, disability, genetic modification and resource allocation. It is intended that students will gain knowledge of moral philosophy that equips them to evaluate some of the most pressing dilemmas facing biomedical practice.

Assessment:

- Continuous Assessment and group work, worth 30%
- Final Paper to be submitted at the end of the semester, worth 70%

PI246 American Pragmatism

Lecturer: Dr. Tsarina Doyle

Course description: This course shall examine some of the central themes at the heart of American pragmatism. We shall begin by addressing the historical and scientific background informing the emergence of the pragmatist movement in nineteenth-century America. Taking the pragmatist denial of absolute beliefs as our guiding theme, the course shall explore the pragmatist writings of William James in the nineteenth century and Richard Rorty in the twentieth century. In particular, we shall focus on James's rejection of philosophical oppositions. Finally, we shall turn to the neo-pragmatism of Rorty's *Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature* paying particular attention to both his critique of representational view of the mind and his recommendation of social pragmatism.

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

PI247 Nietzsche & Philosophy

Lecturer: Dr Tsarina Doyle

Course description: This course shall introduce students to some of the central themes informing the philosophical writings of Friedrich Nietzsche. Comprising a close reading of his writings, it offers students an opportunity to explore such concepts as perspectivism, the will to power, nihilism, the death of God, master and slave morality, genealogy, the Übermensch and eternal recurrence. Nietzsche's response to traditional philosophical problems of truth and knowledge and his use of the language of falsification and illusion shall also be considered. All students shall be expected to engage in class discussions.

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 Texts:

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

Clarke, Maudemarie 1990, *Nietzsche on Truth and Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press.

Ansell Pearson, Keith, (ed.) 2006, *A companion to Nietzsche*, Blackwell.

May, Simon 1999, *Nietzsche's Ethics and his War on 'Morality'*, Clarendon Press.

Schacht, Richard 1983, *Nietzsche*, Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Solomon, Robert C., and Higgins, Kathleen M. 1988, *Reading Nietzsche*, Oxford University Press.

PI248 Phenomenology

Lecturer: Prof. Felix Ó Murchadha

Course description: This course will familiarize students with the methods and themes Phenomenology focusing on the work of Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty and Levinas. The course will concentrate especially on such themes as consciousness, intentionality, reduction, embodiment, time and the other.

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:

Heidegger, Martin: Being and Time (various translations)

Husserl, Edmund: The Essential Husserl (Indiana University Press, 1999)

Husserl, Edmund The Idea of Phenomenology (Nijhoff 1973), available at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.49015002052539;view=1up;seq=7>

Lévinas, Emmanuel: Totality and infinity: an essay on exteriority (Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press 2005)

Merleau-Ponty, Maurice: Phenomenology of Perception (Routledge, 2005)

PI2108 Philosophy in Irish Schools (1)

Lecturers: Dr Orla Richardson and Dr Lucy Elvis

Course Description: This module focuses on an educational approach to learning called Philosophy for Children (P4C). P4C is a form of inquiry-based learning that encourages critical thinking through democratic dialogue. It is a pedagogy that helps to foster critical, creative, and caring thinking skills amongst all types of learners. Through this internationally practised pedagogy, groups of learners become ‘communities of inquiry’, tackling philosophical questions they themselves identify and formulate. Through thinking together, these communities learn to challenge assumptions, give reasons, and cultivate their critical thinking skills. The module will provide students with a theoretical introduction to the P4C pedagogy, the opportunity to experience the pedagogy as members of a community of inquiry, and the skills needed to become a P4C facilitator. Students will develop their own facilitation practice by delivering P4C workshops (in teams) to groups of 3rd, 4th, and 5th class students (7–11-year-olds) from a primary school located in Galway city.

This module is capped at 21 students. Students must complete the following form ahead of registration:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Lr2wfuwJyT>

There will be two training events on Friday, 26th and Saturday, 27th of September 2025. Attendance to these training events is compulsory for any student registered for PI2108.

As part of this module, students will be working with young children. Therefore, students wishing to participate in PI2108 will require police clearance. Students should plan to bring police clearance documentation with them to Ireland.

Teaching and learning methods: This module is taught through a mixture of lectures and seminar-based learning.

Methods of assessment:

- 1) Satisfactory participation in all classes - including assigned facilitation of P4C workshops - is required.
- 2) Students are required to submit a detailed “theory-to-practice” journal. In this journal, students will engage in theoretical reflection on the P4C pedagogy in response to short readings and will assess the impact of that reflection on their classroom practices.
- 3) Book module and associated lesson plan.

Core Texts: You are not required to purchase a textbook. All extracts from primary texts will be available on Canvas. However, there is a list of suggested preparatory core readings below.

Gregory, Maughn, Joanna Haynes, and Karin Murris. The Routledge International Handbook of Philosophy for Children. New York: Routledge, 2017.

Gregory, Lavery, Gregory, Maughn, and Lavery, Megan. In Community of Inquiry with Ann Margaret Sharp: Childhood, Philosophy and Education. Routledge International Studies in the Philosophy of Education, 2018.

Lipman, Matthew. Thinking in Education. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Lipman, Matthew, Ann Margaret Sharp, and Frederick S. Oscanyan. Philosophy in the Classroom. 2nd ed. Philadelphia, [Pa.]: Temple University Press, 1980

Lyons, A., McIlrath, L. & Munck, R. Higher Education and Civic Engagement: Comparative Perspectives. UK: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012.

Naji, Rosnani Hashim, and Naji, Saeed. History, Theory and Practice of Philosophy for Children: International Perspectives. Routledge Research in Education. 2017.

2nd Arts Semester Two 2025/2026

- **PI241 History of Irish Thought**
- **PI2112 Themes in the History of Modern Philosophy: Empiricism and Beyond**
- **PI207 Philosophy of Art**
- **PI2102 Formal Logic**
- **PI2109 Philosophy in Irish Schools (2)**

SECOND YEAR PHILOSOPHY SEMESTER 2, 2025/26					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	PI2112 Themes in the History of Modern Philosophy: Empiricism & Beyond CSB-1009 Dr T Doyle		PI2112 Themes in the History of Modern Philosophy: Empiricism & Beyond CSB-G005		

			Dr T Doyle		
10:00	PI241 History of Irish Thought CSB-1009 Dr J O'Reilly	PI207 Philosophy of Art AMB 1023 Mairtin O Tnuthail Theatre Dr L Elvis			
11:00	PI241 History of Irish Thought CSB-1008 Dr J O'Reilly			PI207 Philosophy of Art AMB G009 Dr L Elvis	
12:00					
13:00					PI2102 Formal Logic CSB-1003 Dr N Tosh
14:00					
15:00			PI2109 Philosophy in Irish Schools (2) AMB-G010 Dr L Elvis		
16:00			PI2109 Philosophy in Irish Schools (2) AMB-G010 Dr L Elvis		
17:00					
18:00	PI2102 Formal Logic AC214 Dr N Tosh				

PI2112 Themes in the History of Modern Philosophy: Empiricism & Beyond

Lecturer: Dr Tsarina Doyle

Course description: This course examines the empirical philosophy of John Locke, George Berkeley, and David Hume, along with Immanuel Kant's response to empiricism. Thematically, the course focuses on the relation between empirical science and metaphysics. It does so by investigating the influence of the experimental methodology of the natural sciences on the

thinking of the four philosophers and assesses its implications for their accounts of the human mind and the possibility of knowledge.

Prerequisites: None

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

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is by written exam, plus continuous assessment based on participation in Lectures and in small group exercises.

Recommended Book Resources:

John Locke 1996, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Hackett Publishing Company Incorporated [ISBN: 087220216X]

David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* [ISBN: 1546545263]

George Berkeley 1988, *Principles of Human Knowledge and Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, Penguin UK [ISBN: 9780140432930]

Immanuel Kant 1998, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Cambridge University Press [ISBN: 0521657296]

PI241 History of Irish Thought

Lecturer: Dr John O'Reilly

Course description: The course History of Irish Thought introduces the student to the thought of Irish men and women who have made a contribution to philosophical thought. This year the course will focus on two particular individuals, the 18th parliamentarian and writer Edmund Burke (1729 – 1797) and the contemporary political philosopher Philip Pettit. Our main concern shall be to examine their respective contributions to questions of liberty, good government, and the sources of a just and stable society.

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:

Burke, Edmund. *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, Penguin.

Burke, Edmund. *Pre-Revolutionary Writings*, CUP, 2009.

Pettit, Philip. *Republicanism: A Theory of Freedom and Government*, Oxford, 1999.

Pettit, Philip. *On the People's Terms: A Republican Theory and Model of Democracy*, CUP, 2012.

PI207 Philosophy of Art

Lecturer: **Dr Lucy Elvis**

Course description: This module is an introduction to philosophical approaches to various art forms across Western history of ideas. It gives students the skills to rigorously understand relevant key texts and critically discuss them in relation to a range of art practices and art forms. Whether pre-modern, modern, or contemporary, the philosophical approaches considered cover a variety of methods including from the analytic and interpretive traditions. Similarly, the art forms discussed span a variety of historical periods, movements and categories.

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

Methods of assessment and examination: Students are assessed in three ways in this course: in-class participation (10%), interactive oral examination (40%) and final essay (50%).

Core Texts:

Gracyk, T., *The Philosophy of Art*, Polity Press

Carroll, N., *Philosophy of Art: A Contemporary Introduction*, Routledge

Hofstadter, A. and Kuhns, R., *Philosophies of Art and Beauty: Selected Readings in Aesthetics from Plato to Heidegger*, University of Chicago Press

Bredin, H. and Santoro-Brienza, L., *Philosophies of Art and Beauty: Introduction Aesthetics*, Edinburgh University Press.

PI2102 Formal Logic

Lecturer: Dr Nick Tosh

Course description: Formal logic is the systematic study of deductive reasoning. It is motivated by such questions as 'what does it mean to say that a piece of reasoning is "correct"?', 'how can we tell when a piece of reasoning is correct?', and 'could we program a machine to do the job for us?' The course begins with the concept of validity, and then moves on to cover sentence logic, truth tables, natural deduction, and elementary predicate logic. Throughout, we lean heavily on Paul Teller's *Logic Primer*, now freely available online (<http://tellerprimer.ucdavis.edu/>). No previous knowledge is assumed, but good study habits are essential. Readings and practice exercises will be set each week, and students who fall behind may find it difficult to catch up.

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

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

Core Texts: Paul Teller, *A Modern Formal Logic Primer*, <http://telleprimer.ucdavis.edu/>

PI2109 Philosophy in Irish Schools (2)

Lecturers: Dr Lucy Elvis

Course Description: This module focuses on an educational approach to learning called Philosophy for Children (P4C). P4C is a form of inquiry-based learning that encourages critical thinking through democratic dialogue. It is a pedagogy that helps to foster critical, creative, and caring thinking skills amongst all types of learners. Through this internationally practised pedagogy, groups of learners become 'communities of inquiry', tackling philosophical questions they themselves identify and formulate. Through thinking together, these communities learn to challenge assumptions, give reasons, and cultivate their critical thinking skills. The module will provide students with a theoretical

introduction to the P4C pedagogy, the opportunity to experience the pedagogy as members of a community of inquiry, and the skills needed to become a P4C facilitator. Students will develop their own facilitation practice by delivering P4C workshops (in teams) to groups of 3rd, 4th, and 5th class students (7–11-year-olds) from a primary school located in Galway city.

This module is capped at 21 students. Students must complete the following form ahead of registration:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Lr2wfuwJyT>

There will be two training events (times and dates TBC). Attendance to these training events is compulsory for any student registered for PI2109.

As part of this module, students will be working with young children. Therefore, students wishing to participate in PI2109 will require police clearance. Students should plan to bring police clearance documentation with them to Ireland.

Teaching and learning methods: This module is taught through a mixture of lectures and seminar-based learning.

Methods of assessment:

- 1) Satisfactory participation in all classes - including assigned facilitation of P4C workshops - is required.
- 2) Students are required to submit a detailed “theory-to-practice” journal. In this journal, students will engage in theoretical reflection on the P4C pedagogy in response to short readings and will assess the impact of that reflection on their classroom practices.
- 3) Book module and associated lesson plan.

Core Texts: You are not required to purchase a textbook. All extracts from primary texts will be available on Canvas. However, there is a list of suggested preparatory core readings below.

Gregory, Maughn, Joanna Haynes, and Karin Murris. *The Routledge International Handbook of Philosophy for Children*. New York: Routledge, 2017.

Gregory, Lavery, Gregory, Maughn, and Lavery, Megan. *In Community of Inquiry with Ann Margaret Sharp: Childhood, Philosophy and Education*. Routledge International Studies in the Philosophy of Education, 2018.

Lipman, Matthew. Thinking in Education. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Lipman, Matthew, Ann Margaret Sharp, and Frederick S. Oscanyan. Philosophy in the Classroom. 2nd ed. Philadelphia, [Pa.]: Temple University Press, 1980

Lyons, A., McIlrath, L. & Munck, R. Higher Education and Civic Engagement: Comparative Perspectives. UK: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012.

Naji, Rosnani Hashim, and Naji, Saeed. History, Theory and Practice of Philosophy for Children: International Perspectives. Routledge Research in Education. 2017.

Core Texts:

Aristotle, *Nicomachean ethics*. T.Irwin (trans.) Hackett Publishing, London, 2019.

Supplementary reading:

Amélie Oksenberg Rorty (ed.) *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics*. University of California Press, 1980

3rd Arts Semester One 2025/2026

- **PI315 Philosophy of Mind**
- **PI3100 Kant's Theoretical Philosophy**
- **PI3103 Environmental Ethics**
- **PI3104 Philosophy and Culture in Context**
- **PI3106 Formal Logic 2**
- **PI3107 Philosophy of Science**

FINAL YEAR PHILOSOPHY SEMESTER 1, 2025/26					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	PI315 Philosophy of Mind CA118				

	Dr John O'Reilly				
10:00	PI315 Philosophy of Mind CA118 Dr John O'Reilly		PI3103 Environmental Ethics ENG 2003 Dr Nora Ward		
11:00		PI3100 Kant's Theoretical Philosophy AC201 Dr Tsarina Doyle			
12:00		PI3100 Kant's Theoretical Philosophy AC201 Dr Tsarina Doyle		PI3104 Philosophy and Culture in Context (4 weeks, 12-6pm*) Dr Lucy Elvis	
13:00				PI3104 (*)	
14:00		PI3103 Environmental Ethics Larmor Theatre Dr Nora Ward		PI3104 (*)	
15:00				PI3104 (*)	
16:00	PI3107 Philosophy of Science AMB G008 Dr Nick Tosh			PI3104 (*)	
17:00	PI3107 Philosophy of Science AMB G008 Dr Nick Tosh	PI3106 Formal Logic 2 Seminar Room, 19 Distillery Road Dr Nick Tosh		PI3104 (*)	
18:00		PI3106 Formal Logic 2 Seminar Room, 19 Distillery Road Dr Nick Tosh			

(*) PI3104 workshops dates and venues

- 25th September (The Bridge room – Hardiman Building)
- 9th October (G010 – Hardiman Building)
- 23rd October (The Bridge room – Hardiman Building)
- 20th November (The Bridge room – Hardiman Building)

PI315 Philosophy of Mind

Lecturer: 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)

PI3100 Kant's Theoretical Philosophy

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.

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

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is based on a written essay at the end of the semester. Continuous assessment - is added to the evaluation.

Core texts:

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)

PI3103 Environmental Ethics

Lecturer: Dr Nora Ward

This module focuses 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.

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

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

PI3104 Philosophy and Culture in Context

Lecturer: Dr Lucy Elvis

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.

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

PI3106 Formal Logic 2

Lecturer: Dr N. 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.

Core Text: A reading list will be handed out at the beginning of the course.

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

PI3107 Philosophy of Science

Lecturer: Dr Nick Tosh

Course description: This module surveys twentieth-century philosophy of science. Topics covered include logical positivism, the problem of induction, paradoxes of confirmation, Popper's falsificationism, Kuhn's vision of science, and scientific realism.

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

Recommended	Book	Resources:
Peter Godfrey-Smith 2021, Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science, 2 Ed., University of Chicago Press [ISBN: 978-022661865]		

Supplementary	Book	Resources:
Tim Lewens 2015, The Meaning of Science, Pelican [ISBN: 978-0141977] A. C. Grayling, Philosophy: A guide through the subject, Chapter 3, Oxford University Press [ISBN: 9780198752431]		

3rd Arts Semester Two 2025/2026

- **PI129 Advanced Philosophical Text**
- **PI310 Topics in Applied Philosophy**
- **PI327 Philosophy of Religion**
- **PI3108 Topics in Post-Kantian Philosophy**

FINAL YEAR PHILOSOPHY SEMESTER 2, 2025/26					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00		PI3108 Topics in Post-Kantian Philosophy CA001 Dr Tsarina Doyle			
10:00		PI3108 Topics in post-Kantian Philosophy CA001 Dr Tsarina Doyle			
11:00					
12:00		PI310 Topics in Applied Philosophy CSB-1007 Dr R Hull			
13:00				PI129 Advanced Philosophical Text AC214 Dr N Tosh	
14:00		PI129 Advanced Philosophical Text AC214 Dr N Tosh			
15:00			PI310 Topics in Applied Philosophy AC213 Dr R Hull	PI327 Philosophy of Religion CA003 Prof F Ó Murchadha	
16:00				PI327 Philosophy of Religion CA003 Prof F Ó Murchadha	

PI129 Advanced Philosophical Text

Lecturer: Dr Nick Tosh

Course description: The module allows students to read a philosophical text in greater detail than is usually possible in a survey course. This year, the text is *Paradoxes* by R. M. Sainsbury. With this book as our guide, we will examine paradoxes of rational action, rational belief, logic and truth. Specific examples will likely include the prisoner's dilemma, Newcomb's paradox, the raven paradox, the paradox of the unexpected examination, Russell's paradox and the liar paradox.

Prerequisites: None

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

Methods of assessment and examination: end of term assignment, supplemented by some in-class exercises.

Core Texts: R. M. Sainsbury (2009) *Paradoxes*. Cambridge University Press.

PI310 Topics in Applied Philosophy

Lecturer: 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.

Teaching and Learning Methods: This course is lecture-based, supplemented by tutorials

Methods of Assessment and Examination: Overall assessment is based on a written essay. Written course work (essay) - if required - is added to the evaluation.

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 BYN]

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]

Other resources:

To be posted on Canvas.

PI327 Philosophy of Religion

Lecturer: Prof. Felix Ó Murchadha

Course description: This course will discuss one of the principle 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 Caputo 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

PI3108 Topics in post-Kantian Philosophy

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%)

Core Texts:

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

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 online form here:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/student-information/studentformsandlinks/>

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 33 & 34
If you need to defer your assessment because of serious illness or bereavement	The College of Arts Office (Catherine McCurry – catherine.mccurry@universityofgalway.ie – 1 st Year Philosophy students. Deirdre Finan – deirdre.finan@universityofgalway.ie for all other years).
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, Emma Brinton.
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 philosophyadmin@universityofgalway.ie or the School of History and Philosophy administrator, Helena Condon 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.

Please make sure you are familiar with our policies on [Essay deadlines and penalties](#).

Canvas

Course pages on Canvas will 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.

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 their [website](#).

Student Counselling Service

This service is available to all full and part-time registered students at NUI, 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), 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

See, Policies and Procedures established by the University. All students should familiarise themselves with these guidelines at: <http://www.universityofgalway.ie/codeofconduct/>

Further useful information:

Student Information Desk

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 www.universityofgalway.ie/sid/

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

Academic Integrity Policy

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/>

Contacts:

Staff Representative: Dr Tsarina Doyle	Morrisroe House, Room 101 19 Distillery Road tsarina.doyle@universityofgalway.ie
Discipline Administrator: María Bernal Navarro	Philosophyadmin@universityofgalway.ie
School Administrator: Helena Condon	Sohap@universityofgalway.ie
Dr Lucy Elvis	Morrisroe House, Room 102, 19 Distillery Road lucy.elvis@universityofgalway.ie
Dr Heike Felzmann (On sabbatical in Sem 2)	Morrisroe House, Room 201, 19 Distillery Road heike.felzmann@universityofgalway.ie
Dr Richard Hull (On leave in Sem 1)	Morrisroe House, Room 104, 19 Distillery Road richard.hull@universityofgalway.ie
Prof. Felix Ó Murchadha Head of Discipline	Morrisroe House, Room 202, 19 Distillery Road felix.omurchadha@universityofgalway.ie
Dr John O' Reilly	Morrisroe House, Room 204, 19 Distillery Road john.oreilly@universityofgalway.ie
Dr Orla Richardson	Morrisroe House, Room 106, 19 Distillery Road orla.richardson@universityofgalway.ie
Dr Nick Tosh	Morrisroe House, Room 203, 19 Distillery Road Nick.tosh@universityofgalway.ie
Dr Nora Ward	Morrisroe House, Room 104, 19 Distillery Road

	Nora.ward@universityofgalway.ie
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