

Introduction to Philosophy

Introductory reading

Unlike other courses, there is a single textbook for this one. It is:

Guttenplan, S., J. Hornsby and C. Janaway *Reading Philosophy*. (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2003).

You will be sent a copy of this book when you register any qualification.

Reading Philosophy is constructed around various philosophical problems. It contains texts related to these problems, as well as commentaries and invitations to the reader to think about specific issues raised by the texts. As you will see, the book aims to introduce you – in an active way – both to classic philosophical problems and to the reading of philosophical texts.

The final examination will contain questions relating to each of the chapters in the book, and you are not required to read anything other than what is contained in it. Below is a sample of the kind of question you might encounter. (Note that they are closely related to the content of the book.)

resolving it?

10. Outline and evaluate Locke's account of persons and their identity.
11. Is it really possible for one person to change bodies with another?
12. '[T]he will turns at once, like a weathervane on a well-oiled pivot in a changeable wind...It turns successively to all the motives that lie before it as possible, and with each the human being thinks he can will it, and thus fix the weathervane at this point; but this is a mere deception.'
(Schopenhauer) What are Schopenhauer's arguments for this?