

Open University Courses

The Open University runs a number of courses in philosophy and on the broader issue of trust.

Their [courses](#) page allows you to search through all the subjects available. You may also like to look at some of the faculty pages, such as [Arts](#), [Science](#) or [Social Sciences](#) for more information.

[Fifth-Century Athens: Democracy and City State \(A209\)](#)

This second level course considers the relationship between the culture of the ancient Athenian city state and its democratic form of government. Themes include the social context of the theatre, philosophy and religion, the dynamics of empire and how war affected the arts and social values. Included in this is the philosophical and religious experience in late fifth-century Athens which explores the development of Greek rationalism, leading to a study of a Socratic dialogue by the philosopher Plato.

[Philosophy and the Human Situation \(A211\)](#)

This introduction to philosophy for second level students shows how philosophical issues arise in familiar questions about our own nature and situation, and is designed to show philosophy as an active *enquiry*.

[Culture, Media and Identities \(D318\)](#)

This third level course explores the interdisciplinary field of cultural and media studies. Some of the main topics include the growth of new technologies and their effects on everyday life and on popular culture; how culture constructs new identities and marks differences between groups; and the rise of the new multimedia cultural industries that dominate the networks of circulation.

[Reading Political Philosophy: Machiavelli to Mill \(AA311\)](#)

This third level course examines some of the most fascinating and influential books ever written, from Machiavelli's *The Prince* to John Stuart Mill's *The Subjection of Women*. All the books continue to exert an influence on present-day thought, and as such are all the more exciting to read. The works covered are written by seven of the most important political philosophers - Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Engels and Mill.

[Applying Virtue Ethics \(A432\)](#)

Although the roots of virtue ethics go back to the writings of Plato and Aristotle, its modern version is a fairly recent addition to the prevailing approaches in modern moral philosophy. This third level course offers one of the few opportunities in the UK to study it in depth at undergraduate level.

[Issues in Contemporary Social and Political Philosophy \(A851\)](#)

This course encourages Post Graduates to develop independence of thought and the ability to put across a full and coherent case for a philosophical position. The themes covered in the course include the metaphysics of social explanation, distributive justice, and liberalism versus communitarianism, which are then used to explore the topics of citizenship, nationalism, punishment and democracy.

[Science and the Public \(S802\)](#)

Part of the Postgraduate Science Studies strand in the MSc in Science programme, this course focuses on science and its relationship to the general public. In particular it includes a section on the question of trust between scientists and the public.