

## Theme 1: History of Philosophy / World Philosophies

(Updated: November 20, 2023)

**Description:** We will be attempting a whirlwind tour across the history of world philosophies, from ancient Greece, India and China to the present day. Obviously, we won't be able to cover this field comprehensively, but we hope to encounter many of the highlights. This survey will also give us exposure to a wide range of key philosophical questions, and approaches that have arisen to examine them. We are likely to list several readings for each meeting, but will probably focus discussion on a smaller number, determined in advance.

With some helpful guidance and research from advisors and participants, we also hope to reference readings to provide more diversity in terms of geography, cultural traditions and gender than is typically included in surveys of Western philosophy. So, our reading lists might change now and then as we work our way through the schedule.

**General schedule:** We typically meet on the **second Saturday of every month** at **11:15 a.m.** at Writers & Books, 740 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14607.

**Readings:** The list below does **not** provide the specific readings for each meeting. **Please visit the website for the latest event and readings info** (<https://philosophycafe.net/events>).

### Meeting Date\*

### Discussion Topics

Sat., April 9, 2022\*

Welcome!

Introduction to Philosophy Cafe. What is philosophy? Discuss future topics, readings, readings sources, schedule, logistics.

## INTRODUCTION - ANCIENT GREECE

Sat., May 14, 2022\*

(1) The Pre-Socratics:

Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Xenophanes, Pythagoras, Parmenides, Zeno, Heraclitus, Anaxagoras, Democritus, Empedocles, the Sophists.

Sat., June 11, 2022\*

(2) Socrates and Plato.

**ETHICS**

- Sat., July 9, 2022\* (3) Ethics in the Philosophical Traditions of India:  
Hinduism; Bhakti Movement; Early Buddhism; Jainism; Charvaka.
- Sat., Aug. 13, 2022\* (4) Chinese Ethics:  
Confucius; Mencius; Xunzi; Neo-Confucian Women Writers; Daoism;  
Daoist Women Writers.
- Sat., Sept. 10, 2022\* (5) Ancient Greek Ethics:  
Socrates, Plato, Aristotle.
- Sat., Oct. 8, 2022\* (6) Medieval Christian, Jewish, and Islamic Ethics:  
The Babylonian Talmud; Augustine; Al-Farabi; Maimonides; Aquinas;  
St. Catherine of Siena; Christine de Pizan; St. Teresa of Avila.
- Sat., Nov. 12, 2022\* (7) Ethics in Modern Philosophy:  
Princess Elizabeth; Hume; Kant; Madame de Stael; John Stuart Mill and  
Utilitarianism.
- Sat., Dec. 10, 2022\* (8) African Ethics:  
Ethiopian Enlightenment; Akan and Communitarian Utilitarianism; East  
African Islamic Ethics.

**PHILOSOPHY OF MIND AND SELF**

- Sat., Feb. 11, 2023\* (9) The Self in Indian Philosophy:  
Upanishads; Hinduism: Vedanta, Samkhya, and Yoga; Indian  
Buddhism; Exegesis, Logic, and Materialism.
- Sat., March 11, 2023\* (10) The Self in Chinese Buddhism:  
Consciousness-Only School (Xuanzang); Tibetan Buddhism; Zen  
Buddhism.
- Sat., April 8, 2023\* (11) Ancient Greek Philosophy of Mind:  
Plato: The Eternal, Tripartite Soul; Aristotle: On the Self and Human  
Function.
- Sat., May 13, 2023\* (12) Mind and Body in Early Modern Philosophy:  
Descartes; Princess Elizabeth's Critique of Descartes; Locke; Hume.
- Sat., June 10, 2023\* (13) African Philosophy of Mind:  
Amo's Critique of Descartes; Akan Conception of Mind and Self;  
African Perspectives on Personal Identity

**EPISTEMOLOGY**

- Sat., July 8, 2023\* (14) Indian Theories of Knowledge:  
Nyaya and Vaisheshika; Nagarjuna; New Logic Responses to Skepticism.
- Sat., Aug. 12, 2023\* (15) Chinese Theories of Knowledge:  
Daoist Skepticism; Empiricism of Wang Chong.
- Sat., Sept. 9, 2023\* (16) Ancient Greek Theories of Knowledge:  
Plato; Aristotle; Sextus Empiricus.
- Sat., Oct. 14, 2023\* (17) Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Theories of Knowledge:  
Philo of Alexandria; Augustine; Avicenna (ibn Sina).
- Sat., Nov. 11, 2023\* (18) Modern Theories of Knowledge:  
Descartes; Locke; Leibniz; Hume.
- Sat., Dec. 9, 2023\* (19) Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Theories of Knowledge:  
Francisco Sanches; Unamuno.

**METAPHYSICS**

- Sat., Jan. 13, 2024\* (20) Classical Indian Metaphysics:  
Classical Realist Ontology; Hindu Idealism; Buddhist Idealism; Jainist Perspectivism.
- Sat., Feb. 10, 2024\* (21) Ancient Greek Metaphysics:  
Plato's Forms; Aristotle: Categories and Causes.
- Sat., March 9, 2024\* (22) Metaphysics in Early Modern Philosophy:  
Selections from Descartes: "Meditations on First Philosophy"; Locke: "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding"; Berkeley: "Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous," and "Principles of Human Knowledge"; Hume: "A Treatise of Human Nature"
- Sat., April 13, 2024\* (23) Metaphysics in Kant and Post-Kantian Philosophy:  
Kant: "Critique of Pure Reason"; Hegel: "Phenomenology of Mind"; Peirce: "How to Make Our Ideas Clear"; Nietzsche: "Human, All Too Human" and "The Cheerful Science"; Russell: "Problems of Philosophy"
- Sat., May 11, 2024\* (24) Spanish and Latin American Metaphysics:  
Selections from Peter of Spain, "Tractatus"; Ortega y Gasset, "The Modern Theme"; Borges: "Tlon, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius".

## PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY

- Sat., June 8, 2024\*      (25) Classical Christian Theology:  
 Selections from Augustine: "Confessions" and "Enchiridion"; Anselm:  
 "Proslogion"; Aquinas: "Summa Theologica"; Julian of Norwich:  
 "Revelations of Divine Love".
- Sat., July 13, 2024\*      (26) Medieval Islamic Theology:  
 Selections from Ibn Sina (Avicenna): "On the Nature of God"; Al-  
 Ghazali: "The Incoherence of the Philosophers"; Averroes: "The  
 Incoherence of the Incoherence"; Rabi'a al-'Adawiyya: "Readings from  
 the Mystics of Islam"; Zeb-un-Nissa: "Poetry from the Hidden One"
- Sat., Aug. 10, 2024\*      (27) Modern Theology:  
 Selections from Descartes: "Meditations on First Philosophy"; Pascal:  
 "Thoughts"; Leibniz: "Theodicy"; Paley: "Natural Theology"; Hume:  
 "Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion"

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