

Philosophy in Cambridge: past and present

Start date 16th June 2019**End date** 16th June 2019**Venue** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge**Tutor** Dr Alex Carter**Course code** 1819NDX040**Director of Academic Centres** Sarah Ormrod**For further information on this course, please contact** Head of Academic Centre Administration, Zara Kuckelhaus
zara.kuckelhaus@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746204**To book** See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Dr Alex Carter - Academic Director, Institute Teaching Officer in Philosophy

Alex was awarded his PhD in Philosophy by the University of Essex in 2015. Before this, Alex studied Philosophy & Ancient History at the University of Wales, Swansea and Philosophy at the University of Bristol. Alex has over five years of teaching experience in Ethics, History of Philosophy and Philosophy of Religion. He has worked at the Institute of Continuing Education since 2015 as Academic Director for Philosophy and as a Panel Tutor.

Alex's teaching method was developed at the University of Essex where the principle aim is to get students to feel the "pain of the problem", i.e. to make plain the very real ways in which philosophical problems affect our lives. Accordingly, Alex is most keen to offer his support to philosophical projects that, not only to inform contemporary debates, but actively affect change. Alex's ongoing research interests include the theology of Simone Weil and Ludwig Wittgenstein's ethical philosophy.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:00	Session 1: Cambridge and Natural Philosophy: Newton and Darwin
11:00	Coffee
11:15 – 12:30	Session 2: Cambridge and Analytic Philosophy: Russell, Moore & Wittgenstein
12:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:45	Session 3: Cambridge Philosophy of logic and language
14:45	Tea
15:15 – 16:30	Session 4: Cambridge Philosophy today and tomorrow
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will introduce students to the history of ideas through the lens of 'Cambridge-philosophy'. Students will consider the philosophical, scientific and historical importance of a wide-range of ideas, as well as reflect critically on the significance of these ideas to their own lives. In so doing, students will gain a deeper understanding of, and an appreciation for, the role the University of Cambridge has played in shaping human intellectual history; as well as their ongoing role in shaping it.

Content:

Since it was established in 13th century, the University of Cambridge has been home to many of the world's most influential thinkers. We will explore numerous "chapters" in this intellectual history, critically assess their historical importance and their continued relevance and consider the "next chapters" in Cambridge's story.

Beginning with the natural philosophers of the early modern era, we will consider why some are remembered as 'scientists' and others as 'philosophers'. What precisely is the relationship between science and philosophy, and is the relationship purely historical? From its role as the 'queen of the sciences', we will turn to philosophy's role in determining the foundations of logic and mathematics, as well as linguistic meaning. Has 'meaning' replaced 'truth' and to what extent has the 'linguistic turn' influenced our modern, 'post-truth' era?

Presentation of the course:

The Day School will be comprised of formal lectures incorporating interactive presentations and discussion sessions. Throughout each session, students will be invited to reflect, comment and pass judgement on the ideas introduced.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate greater understanding of the history of philosophy in Cambridge;
- Make connections between, and assess the importance of, key philosophical developments (during the 20th and 21st centuries);
- Utilise philosophical methods in critically analysing arguments and ideas.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Edmonds, D. Eidonow, J.	<i>Wittgenstein's Poker</i>	Faber & Faber, 2014
Swartz, S. P.	<i>A Brief History of Analytic Philosophy: From Russell to Rawls</i>	Wiley & Sons, 2012
Quinn, Arthur	<i>The Confidence of British Philosophers: An Essay in Historical Narrative</i>	Brill Archive, 1977

Website addresses

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/about-the-university/history>

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/about-the-university/history/timeline>

<https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/aboutus/philosophy-cambridge-history>

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 22 May 2019