



Topics in Philosophy IB | PIU11014

Year	Junior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 lectures; 4 tutorials
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr. Samantha Fazekas
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Module Outline:

Component One: Friendship & Politics:

This component will examine the relationship between friendship and politics. Political friendship used to play a vital role in ancient Greek political life. Whereas in modernity, friendship becomes a private and intimate phenomenon. Considering this, we will question whether and how political friendship can be revived in contemporary political philosophy. To this end, we will focus on the following questions: Can political friendships form the basis of political communities, states/countries, and political unions (e.g., EU, UN, national/international federations and confederations)? Can citizens be considered “friends” with each other? Can all states/countries be “friends” with each other?

Recommended Reading List:

The complete reading list, including primary and secondary literature, will be finalized at the beginning of the term.

- Cicero, *Laelius De Amicitia (Laelius On Friendship)*, trans. Evelyn S. Shuckburgh, ed. Rhonda L. Kelley (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2013).
- Michel de Montaigne, “Of Friendship,” *The Essays of Montaigne*, trans. Charles Cotton (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2023).
- Francis Bacon, “Of Friendship,” *The Essays or Councils, Civil and Moral, of Francis Bacon Ld. Verulam Viscount St. Albans* (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2013).

Component Two: The Climate Crisis:

This component will concern itself with one of the most pressing political concerns of our time: the climate crisis. This component will offer an introduction to environmental philosophy. We will analyse different understandings of the environment, and question from moral, aesthetic, and political perspectives why we should value and protect it. We will also consider whether we should conserve the environment for the sake of current and



future generations. Possible solutions to climate change will be addressed and problematized, such as geoengineering, agroforestry, and veganism.

Recommended Reading List:

The complete reading list, including primary and secondary literature, will be finalized at the beginning of the term.

- Thomas E. Hill Jr., "Finding Value in Nature," *Environmental Values* Vol. 15, no. 3, *Perspectives on Environmental Values: The Princeton Workshop* (August 2006): 331-341.
- Holmes Rolston III, "Aesthetics in the Swamps," *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 43, no. 4 (Summer 2000): 584-597.
- Frans de Waal, "What I Learned Tickling Apes," *New York Times* (April 2016): 1-3.

Assessment:

1 Essay (end of module) 50% **AND** 1 Examination (end of module) 50%