

PIU11014: Topics in Philosophy IB

Single Honors Philosophy

Junior Fresher (5 ECTS)

Hilary Term 2023

Module Outline: Could we travel back in time? What makes the person who arrives in the past the same as the person who started out? What would happen were we to confront our younger selves? Could we change the past? Could we make it so that we never existed? What would happen were we to try? This module will examine the metaphysics of time, causation and personal identity through the device of time travel.

Lecturer:

Prof. Alison Fernandes

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Arts Room 5005

Office Hours: By appointment.

No prerequisites

Contact Hours: 22 hours lectures, 5 hours tutorials

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Explain major concepts in the philosophy of time travel, including defining time travel, A vs. B theories of time, personal time vs. external time, changing the past, consistent vs. inconsistent time travel stories.
- Critically engage in debates concerning time travel, including whether time travel is possible, whether time travellers can change the past, and whether there are limits on the freedom of time travellers.
- Communicate their ideas about time travel effectively to others, in presentation, discussion and writing.

Reading list:

See Blackboard

Assessment:

For the module, each student must complete:

1 Essay (1500 words) (50%)

1 Presentation (with Written Material) with 1 Reflection (500 words) (50%) (30% Presentation; 20% Written Reflection)

Students must complete an essay on the component they did *not* complete a presentation on.