Module Outline:
The aim of these lectures is to study Plato’s dialogue, the *Phaedo*; and to do so both in its own right and for its own sake—it is a wonderful and fascinating work both as philosophy and as literature—and as a model of an introduction to Ancient Philosophy and indeed philosophy. The *Phaedo* combines philosophical arguments of the most abstract and demanding logical and metaphysical nature with the pursuit of concerns of a personal and existential nature. The logical and metaphysical arguments are about the question whether the soul is or is not capable of existing independently of the body: Socrates argues Yes, Simmias and Cebes argue No or at any rate they challenge Socrates’ arguments. The personal and existential concerns are, first and foremost, about how to exercise care (*epimeleia*) for oneself. We will also consider how these two master-themes in the *Phaedo*—the arguments for and against the immortality of the soul; and the exercise of the care for oneself—are related and combined by Plato.

Assessment:
1 Essay (end of module) 50%: 1 Examination (end of module) 50%.

Recommended Reading List:
- Plato: *Phaedo* (there are several good translations; I recommend the one by G.M.A. Grube, which can be found in *Plato. Complete Works*, edited by John M. Cooper).