

PIU11041 — Topics in Philosophy I A (Columbia Dual BA)

Module Information	
Module Code	PIU11041
Module Title	Topics in Philosophy I A (Columbia Dual BA)
Department	Philosophy
Year Group	Junior Freshman
Module Personnel	Rowan Mellor
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5 ECTS
Semester	1
Contact Hours	2 lectures per week

Module Content	
Module Description	The law touches on almost every area of our daily lives, and our entanglement with law raises numerous philosophical questions. What is law? Are laws equivalent to commands? Do we have a moral duty to obey the law? Should we punish people who don't? In this course, we will examine these questions, and others like them. The course is split into two parts. In the first part, we will look at different answers to the question 'What is law?'. In the second part, we will focus on normative questions surrounding the use of law, and our relation to it as private citizens.
Learning Outcomes	By the end of this module students will: • Have detailed knowledge of classic and contemporary texts in analytic and normative jurisprudence. • Be able to identify and critically evaluate the central arguments and positions in these texts. • Be able to construct philosophical arguments of their own.
Indicative Reading / Resources	HLA Hart (2012). <i>The Concept of Law</i> . Oxford: OUP. Edited by Joseph Raz & Penelope A. Bulloch. Scott Shapiro (2011). <i>Legality</i> . Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Assessment	
Assessment Components	Attendance, Essay mid-term, Essay end-term and Exam.
Assessment Details	Attendance 10%, Essay mid-term 20%, Essay end-term 20% Exam 50%.

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	None.
Co-requisites	None.