



Topics IB | PIU11014

Year	Junior Fresher
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr. Alison Fernandes; Dr. Samantha Fazekas
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Module Outline:

Component 1: (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 analyze different understandings of the environment, and question from moral, aesthetic, and political perspectives why we should value and protect the environment. We will also consider whether or not we should conserve the environment for the sake of non-human animals 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.
- James W. Nickel, "The Human Right to a Safe Environment: Philosophical Perspectives on Its Scope and Justification," *Yale Journal of International Law* Vol. 18, no. 1 (1993): 281-295.
- Frans de Waal, "What I Learned Tickling Apes," *New York Times* (April 2016): 1-3.



Component 2: (Time Travel):

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.

Recommended Reading List:

An extensive and detailed reading list will be made available at the start of the module. But among the essential readings for the early weeks of the course will be

- Casati, Roberto and Varzi, Achille. 2001. 'That Useless Time Machine'. *Philosophy* 76: 581–3.
- Wells, H. G. 1895. *The Time Machine*. (Ch. 1, excerpt)
- Ney, Alyssa. 2014. *Metaphysics: An Introduction*. New York: Routledge. (138–9; 142–52)

Assessment:

1 Essay (1000 words) (50%) **AND**

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