

CURRICULUM SUPPORTS FOR THE REVISED PHILOSOPHY CURRICULUM: ANNOTATED COURSE RESOURCES

This part of the curriculum support guide has the same information organized in two ways:

Part 1 – Organized by medium and function in class activities:

- 1) Minds-on;
- 2) written and digital literacy;
- 3) Feature length and shorter video clips;
- 4) level appropriate books and websites;
- 5) online simulations and activities;
- 6) podcasts;
- 7) Philosophy in the news;
- 8) more

Part 2 – Organized by Grade 12 strand:

- A) Research and inquiry
- B) Philosophical Foundations
- C) Metaphysics
- D) Ethics
- E) Epistemology
- F) Philosophy of Science
- G) Social and Political Philosophy
- H) Aesthetics

1) Minds on

<http://www.visuwords.com/>

Beautiful visual thesaurus. You enter a word – for example ‘philosophy’ – and it attractively generates a concept tree with parts of the word, related words and concepts, topics in philosophy, all of which can be clicked on. Great way to show the scope of a topic, possible synonyms, and narrow down or broaden out a word or topic.

<http://www.languageisavirus.com/#>

Generates semi-random prompts for expletory prose or poetry writing. Good for existentialism, aesthetics, metaphysics, epistemology.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fKBhvDjuy0>

Powers of Ten: short clip illustrating the relative size of extremely large and small things relative to us. (metaphysics)

<http://scaleofuniverse.com/>

Fun and attractive website with slider students can use to compare the relative size of objects: humans, continents, planets, etc. (metaphysics)

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20120321-how-big-is-space>

BBC-produced graphic illustrating the size of space (metaphysics)

http://www.cracked.com/article_20109_5-mind-blowing-academic-theories-as-taught-by-classic-movies.html

Amusing illustrated walk through of movies that illustrate philosophical theories (eg. Prisoner’s Dilemma, Ship of Theseus, Allegory of the Cave). Warning: explicit language.

<http://www.cartoonstock.com/directory/p/philosophy.asp>

Archive of fun cartoons on various philosophical topics.

www.youtube.com/user/Quirkology

Great short clips showing an illusion and how it is done. (epistemology)

http://www.mchumor.com/education_philosophy_toons.html

Another archive of fun cartoons on various philosophical topics.

2) Reading, writing, and digital literacy

<http://cleach.wordpress.com/digital-literacy-in-your-classroom/>
resources on digital literacy.

http://www.academia.edu/240646/Filmmaking_in_the_Philosophy_Classroom_Illustrating_the_Examined_Life
Excellent paper explaining ways of using film in the philosophy class.

<http://www.philosophypages.com/sy.htm>
Advice/instructions for writing, reading (and understanding) philosophical texts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfBZuBGYDm4>
Short video on common logical fallacies in student writing: identifying and avoiding them.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL32A9993FC82230C3>
Terrific video tutorial on how to cite properly and avoid plagiarism.

<http://novemberlearning.com/too-big-to-know-with-david-weinberger/>
http://webcast.oii.ox.ac.uk/?view=Webcast&ID=20051130_109
In these 2 podcasts David Weinberger discusses what knowledge means today and what type of learning must take place in a connected world of overabundant information. (metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of science.)

<http://www.english.hawaii.edu/criticalink/readguide.html>
Reader's guide (step by step explication) of the opening of Plato's Republic, Heidegger's Question Concerning Technology, and other challenging philosophical texts.

<http://arlieferguson.wordpress.com/2011/11/19/part-one-the-city-of-pigs/>
Reader's guide for the opening of Plato's Republic, the city of pigs.

<http://www.english.hawaii.edu/criticalink/readguide.html>
Reading comprehension questions for the opening of Plato's Republic.

http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/study/201_plato_01.html
Study questions for the allegory of the cave in Plato's Republic.

http://philosophynow.org/issues/15/A_students_guide_to_Jean-Paul_Sartre_Existentialism_and_Humanism
Helpful reading guide and background of Sartre's accessible and classic essay "Existentialism is a Humanism".

3) Feature length and shorter video clips

Youtube clips on various topics:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTWwY8Ok5I0>

Charming illustration of Plato's allegory of the cave from the Republic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIf3oxjZESM>

Introductory lecture on fallacies (40 minutes).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXLTQi7vVsl>

The Fallacy Project: Examples of fallacies from advertising, politics, and pop culture (including a great Sesame Street clip) (6 minutes).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5vzCmURh7o>

Intro to the Straw Person fallacy.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PhilosophyFreak?feature=>

Fantastic collection of animations on critical thinking, fallacies, probability, common valid and invalid arguments, and more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmIb2Jb-KC8>

Humourous dialogue between a student and a teacher that illustrates the fallacies.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmRCpqO_1JA

Amusing illustrations of common fallacies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3SLiQFdKnA>

Amusing video distinguishing between science and pseudo-science.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EGDCh75SpQ>

Short talk on 3 views of the reality of numbers.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TryOC83PH1g>

One minute introduction to the Chinese Room thought experiment

(Selected) List of feature length movies:

- Blade Runner (1982) Classic action sci-fi film that explores the question 'what is a human being?' (metaphysics, ethics)
- Chicken Run (2000) Charming animated movie portraying chickens rebelling from the chicken farmers through solidarity. (political philosophy)
- Cold Souls (2009) A depressed actor pays to have his soul removed. Raises questions of ethics, free will, personhood/souls, ethics of new technologies. (metaphysics, ethics, philosophy of science)
- Crimes and Misdemeanors (1989) Woody Allen's class exploration of ethical objectivism VS realism told through adultery.

- Groundhog Day (1993) Classic Bill Murray comedy exploring questions of free will and determinism.
- Inception (2010) A science fiction story occasions an exploration of solipsism, dreams, memory, and the nature of reality.
- Memento (2001) Issues of personal identity and memory are forcefully dramatized through a story of a man who repeatedly loses his memory.
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) Definite anti-psychiatry film (referred to and explicated insightfully by Literary Theory: the basics, Chapter 6, Foucault and Power.)
- The Matrix (1999) Violent and glossy exploration of issues arising from Cartesian doubt and topics in the philosophy of mind. What is real? What is a person? How does deterring an ethical course relate to one's theory of mind and reality? (epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, philosophy of science)
- The Truman Show (1998) The film's titular character is raised from birth in an elaborate movie set that he thinks is his typical US hometown. Evokes Cartesian questions such as 'how do we know we're not in a dream'?
- Waking Life (2001) Existential themes are discussed and illustrated through dialogue, situations, and the visual style of the film. (metaphysics, epistemology, ethics)

Bibliographies of feature length movies:

<http://www.teachphilosophy101.org/Default.aspx?tabid=130>

Fine annotated list of Hollywood movies that feature various philosophical issues.

<http://commfaculty.fullerton.edu/lester/ethics/movies.html>

List of Hollywood movies that feature ethical issues

<http://www.carnegiecouncil.org/education/002/film/index.html#1>

Carnegie Council developed lesson plans on International Ethics dilemmas in films. Eg. Zero Dark Thirty and the ethics of torture, The Battle of Algiers and terrorism/anti-colonial freedom fighting.

<http://www.philfilms.utm.edu/>

Fantastic annotated list of philosophy related films. Includes discussion questions, reviews.

Other online video resources:

<http://www.fourdirectionsteachings.com/>

Beautiful and authentic videos conveying Aboriginal teachings on the creation of the world, ethical issues and more. May be used in conjunction with lesson plans found at Ontario Philosophy Teachers' Association's lesson plans on Aboriginal philosophy:

<http://ontariophilosophy.ca/grade-12/>

4) Level appropriate books and websites

http://commfaculty.fullerton.edu/lester/ethics/ethics_list.html

Great bibliography of ethics publications: business ethics, policing ethics, media, environmental, etc.

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/educators/lesson-plans.php#UXX7Kkrko-A>

PBS' resources for teaching social and ethical issues with their documentaries.

http://www.mdc.edu/enviromethics/Lessonplans.asp#Arts_&Philosophy

Minds-on, lesson plans, other resources for philosophy and ethics, including environmental ethics and aesthetics.

Literary Theory: the basics. Hans Bertens. Routledge 2007.

Wonderfully readable survey chapters on Derrida, Foucault, and other post-modernists.

Cartoon History of the Universe (3 Volumes). Larry Gonick. Three Rivers Press 1997-2005;

Cartoon History of the Modern World (2 Volumes). Larry Gonick. Collins Reference 2006.

These accessible history books include chapters on many philosophers, including philosophy from the Islamic world, the Asian Subcontinent, and East Asia.

Philosophy for Beginners. Richard Osborne, et. al. Writers and Readers Press 1992.

Accessible, funny, comprehensive. Best of a fine series.

The Philosophical Gym. Stephen Law. Headline Review, 2004. Resource book filled with paradoxes, thought experiments, philosophical skills and tools.

Looking at Philosophy. Donald Palmer. McGraw-Hill Higher Education 1993.

Illustrated, funny, insightful introduction to philosophy.

Action Philosophers. Fred Van Lente. Evil Twin Comics 2009.

Action Philosophers is a series of funny and thoughtful comic books, each summarizing various topics and thinkers in a humorous way.

High School Philosophy Textbooks:

- Introduction to World Philosophy: A Multicultural Reader. Daniel Bonevac. Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Questions that Matter: An Invitation to Philosophy. Ed Miller. McGraw-Hill, 2008.
- Philosophy: Questions & Theories. Jeff Stickney, et al. McGraw-Hill Ryerson School, 2003.
- Philosophy in Action. Wayne Sproule. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2003.
- About Philosophy (11th edition). Robert Paul Wolff. Pearson, 2011

5) Online simulations and activities:

<http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=vot&dir=yth/tea&document=index&lang=e> (or Google 'Elections Canada teaching resources', look for 'Welcome Teachers')

Elections Canada teaching resources, including voting simulation.

<http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/DE/PD/instr/strats/simul/simlist.html>

Amazing Canadian page of simulations, including environmental ethics; debates; election simulation; equity and legal trials simulations, and more.

[A Forest for All](#)  - developed by the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, this lengthier sim is set in a fictitious town at odds about a proposed expansion of forest harvesting. The students are assigned roles as members of the community. Placed into groups these members take a specific position on the proposal. Having researched their position and roles, they bring their arguments to a town hall meeting. It's at this meeting that a decision is made on the matter. This simulation that fits well with the Gr. 7 Resource unit. The sim can be adapted to cover Gr. 7-12. The opening activity involves listening to a radio program. The text of the broadcasts are in the printable materials. You can stream the audio via your computer for class use. The text of the program is in the downloadable document (.pdf file).

[Arborea media file](#) - listen to the radio broadcast through your computer

[Boreala media file](#) - listen to the radio broadcast through your computer

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/07/16/the-good-the-bad-and-the-ethicist/>
Ethics simulation

http://www.worldof7billion.org/teacher_resources
Lessons, simulations and activities around ethics of global population and resource use.

<http://fishingfordtech.com/2012/02/18/comic-creation-in-the-classroom/>
Walk-through for teachers explaining how to use Bitstrips cartoons in the classroom.

<http://www.bitstripsforschools.com/>
Free service from Bitstrips allowing you to easily assign and assess Bitstrips cartoons made by your students. Students love illustrating themselves discussing philosophical topics or issues.



6) Podcasts

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/>

Excellent introductory-level podcasts on a variety of philosophical subjects produced by the Australian National Broadcaster.

<http://french-italian.stanford.edu/opinions/>

Interview podcast on a variety of authors and topics.

<http://www.philosophyinpubliclife.org/Why/previousshows.html>

Good introductory-level interview podcast on topics in philosophy.

<http://www.partiallyexaminedlife.com/>

Humorous grade 12 level podcast on philosophical thinkers, topics and texts.

<http://www.philosophybites.com/>

Dozens of fifteen-minute interviews with academic philosophers speaking on topics in philosophy.

<http://philosophynow.org/podcasts>

Interview podcast on various topics, such as feminism, Freud, ethics, aesthetics, the question ‘what is philosophy?’ and many more.

<http://www.historyofphilosophy.net/>

This podcast series aims to be ‘the history of philosophy without any gaps’. Noteworthy for its inclusion of the philosophy of the Islamic world.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/iotp>

Hour-long BBC-produced interview podcast on thinkers, topics, and schools of thought.

http://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/podcasts/philosophy_for_beginners

Series of videos and podcasts of a very accessible 5 lecture series entitled Philosophy for Beginners.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mgxf/clips>

BBC Horizon. Series of videos and interactive web content focusing on scientific discovery.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/radical-hope/3157974#transcript>

Podcast in which philosopher Jonathan Lear discusses how the concepts we use change, including a case study of how a culture under existential risk changed their concepts and way of life.

7) Philosophy in the News

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/philosophy>

The Guardian's collection of philosophy blog posts by contemporary philosophers on various matters of the day and contemporary thinking.

<http://philosophynow.org/>

Magazine on contemporary philosophy. Many articles and resources.

http://leiterreports.typepad.com/blog/philosophy_in_the_news/

Blog of news stories with a philosophical aspect.

www.thestar.com

Toronto-region's largest circulation newspaper. Searchable.

www.theglobeandmail.com

Canada's national newspaper. Searchable.

8) More

<http://www.carnegiecouncil.org/education/002/lessons/hi/index.html>

Carnegie Council lesson plans on the ethics of humanitarian intervention

<http://www.eds-resources.com/edsci.htm#inventions>

Lesson plans and ideas about inventors and inventions for philosophy of science strand

<http://www.eds-resources.com/edsci.htm#sciencehistory>

Lesson plans and ideas about history of science for philosophy of science strand

<http://depts.washington.edu/nwcenter/lessonsplansplatoallegory.html>

Activity and lesson plan for Plato's allegory of the cave.

http://www.westernfrontonline.net/opinion/article_4430016f-af48-52e0-87e4-d0bc5c54e945.html

Accessible introduction article to Parfit's ethics and philosophy of mind (including his celebrated teleporter thought experiment).