

Introduction to Philosophy

Schedule and Readings | August 9 to 12, 2026

Logistics

- Dates: Sunday, August 9 to Wednesday, August 12, 2026
- Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM ET, daily
- Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting
- <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84401178292?pwd%3D2zPEpj04oLvIBQ2mNcAxKWzzAUcRAj.1&source=gmail&ust=1786388339211000&sa=E>
- Meeting ID: 844 0117 8292
- Passcode: 439243

How readings work

Please complete each day's reading before that session. The readings are short, but they are primary philosophical texts: read slowly, and do not worry if parts are difficult. Re-reading is normal. Come with one question or one objection, and you are more than prepared.

Day 1 | Sunday, August 9 — Ethics: What Makes an Action Right?

No readings required.

If you would like to get ahead (entirely optional), browse the Ethical Theory Reading List on our resources page: modusponensinstitute.com/resources. If you watch one Level 1 video from each of Utilitarianism, Deontology, and Virtue Ethics, you will know more than you need for the first class.

Day 2 | Monday, August 10 — Knowledge: How Do I Know What Is True?

- Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy: [PDF here](#) — read PDF pages 61 to 68: the Synopsis of the six Meditations, and the First Meditation.
- Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?": [PDF here](#) — read the whole paper. It is only three pages.

Day 3 | Tuesday, August 11 — Self: What Makes Me the Same Person Over Time?

- Parfit, Reasons and Persons: [PDF here](#) — read PDF pages 10 and 11 (Introduction), and PDF pages 216 and 217 (Chapter 10, "What We Believe Ourselves to Be").
- Watch (6 minutes): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fajfkO_X0l0
- Case: "Severance" (Case 7), from the TKEthics case set — [read it here](#). We will also work through it together in class.

Day 4 | Wednesday, August 12 — Does God Exist?

- Davies, An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion: [PDF here](#) — read Chapter 3, "God and Evil": PDF pages 41 to 63.

This is the longest reading of the camp, so leave yourself extra time for it.

Questions? Email astapleton@modusponensinstitute.com or call 857-320-1778.