Philosophy Reading List

This is a list of books and podcasts that anyone planning to study philosophy at university should find worthwhile. Those coming to Cambridge may receive individual advice on preparatory reading from their college Director of Studies, in which case that advice should take precedence.

Introductions to Philosophy

Simon Blackburn, *Think* (Oxford University Press, 2001)
Rebecca Buxton and Lisa Whiting (editors), *The Philosopher Queens: The lives and legacies of philosophy’s unsung women* (Unbound, 2020)
Peter Catapano and Simon Critchley, *The Stone Reader: Modern philosophy in 133 arguments* (Liveright, 2016)

The *Philosophy Bites* series (Oxford University Press), including *Philosophy Bites, Philosophy Bites Back* and *Philosophy Bites Again* by David Edmonds and Nigel Warburton, and *Women of Ideas* by Suki Finn

Mary Midgley, *What is Philosophy for?* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2018)
Thomas Nagel, *What Does It All Mean?* (Oxford University Press, 1987)

Podcasts

*History of Philosophy: Without any gaps* by Peter Adamson (https://historyofphilosophy.net/)

*The UnMute Podcast with Myisha Cherry* (https://unmutetalk.podbean.com/)

*Philosophy Bites* with David Edmonds and Nigel Warburton (https://philosophybites.com/)

*Five Questions* with Kieran Setiya (https://podcasters.spotify.com/podcast/show/kieran-setiya)

*The Philosophers’ Arms* with Matthew Sweet (https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01lyb82)

*The Philosopher’s Zone* presented by David Rutledge (https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone)
Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind and Epistemology

Tom McClelland, *What is Philosophy of Mind?* (Polity Press, 2021)

Logic and Language

P.D. Magnus and Tim Button, *forallx:Cambridge* ([http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctytbu/OERs.html](http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctytbu/OERs.html)) This is the logic textbook used in the first year of the Philosophy Tripos.
Michael Morris, *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Language*, (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Ethics and Political Philosophy

Judith Jarvis Thompson, *Goodness and Advice* (Oxford University Press, 2001)
Mary Midgley, *Can’t We Make Moral Judgements?* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2017)
Phil Parvin and Clare Chambers, *Teach Yourself Political Philosophy: A complete introduction* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2012)
Philosophy of Science

Alexander Bird, Philosophy of Science (Routledge, 2003)
Tim Lewens, The Meaning of Science (Pelican, 2015)

Some Philosophy Classics

Use any edition available. Some of these are freely available on the internet:

Plato, Meno and Euthyphro
Milinda-pañho (Questions of King Milinda)
Ibn Tufayl, Hayy Ibn Yaqzan (Alive, Son of Awake), also known as The Self-Taught Philosopher
Berkeley, Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous
Descartes, Meditations
Hume, Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Dialogues on Natural Religion and 'Of the Standard of Taste'
Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman
J S Mill, Utilitarianism and On Liberty
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Communist Manifesto
J. L. Austin, How to Do Things With Words: The William James lectures delivered at Harvard University in 1955