

philosophy

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Re: RECOMMENDED READING (VITH FORM PHILOSOPHY, Y12)

Introductory Material

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAKYt3GY (You should subscribe to this channel, called CrashCourse Philosophy. It will make life easier for you.)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evQsOFQju08> (You should subscribe to this channel, or at least watch a good number of his videos: VSauce.)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDGp04CfM4M> (You should subscribe to this channel, called Wireless Philosophy. It's less entertaining than Crash Course, and more sensible. But a subscription here will definitely help you understand the weirder stuff.)
- "The Problems of Philosophy" by Bertrand Russell. Quite accessible, aimed at the casual, though intelligent, reader.
- Read the syllabus, and pay attention to the recommended reading on page 9ff.

Philosophy of Religion

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CuIBuMCLg0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbBO2LuDt9I>
- "Mere Christianity" by CS Lewis, aimed at the uneducated layman. Very readable and very accessible.
- "Does God have a Nature?" by Alvin Plantinga (hard, but worth the effort.)
- "Why I am not a Christian" by Bertrand Russell

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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXPdpEJk78E> - one of the greatest treasures in the Philosophy of Religion was a radio debate between Frederick Coplestone SJ and Bertrand Russell.

Metaphysics

- There are no straightforward introductions to metaphysics. "The Problems of Philosophy" by Bertrand Russell is fairly good. If you fancy an adventure, read "Metaphysics" by Peter van Inwagen. Most introductory texts are aimed at undergraduates.

Epistemology

- You will have to read "Is Knowledge Justified True Belief?" by Edmund Gettier in the course, so it's worth looking at it in advance. It is short, devastating, but reasonably easy to understand. (Concentrate on the first example with the coins in the pocket.)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_Y3utIeTPg (Wireless Philosophy)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3IcbRNQR4c> (Both this, and the former, are a bit dull, but we can't just ignore stuff because of that.)
- A good introduction is "Descartes's Meditation 1", available here (<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/>) This is a good website, with most of the vital philosophical texts available in accessible translations.

Philosophy of Mind/ Psychology

If you do not have a GCSE in Psychology, Sociology or Religious Studies, then it is worth reading one of these textbooks to get a feel for the general topics in this area of philosophy. Avoid university level material, especially in the Philosophy of Mind. It is needlessly complicated.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M> (Crash Course - very good and accessible)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328wX2x_s5g (A Big Think lecture. Most of these are aimed at undergraduate level, but there is a lot in them that you will find interesting and useful.)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7NE7apn-PA> - This is a very good presentation that combines philosophy, logic and psychology.

Moral Philosophy/ Ethics

Almost all introductions to Ethics are dumb. This one is all right: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NO4mgCDtMXs>. In terms of books, one of the best is "Ethical Theory" by James Rachels. TED has some good stuff on Ethics in a general sense, thought-provoking and interesting, rather than detailed, complex or useful.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUdsTizSxSI>
- You should also look through the website of Alain de Botton, or read his stuff. He is quite an good writer, with some good ideas. His website is: <http://alaindebotton.com/>. His recent essay/ book called "The Course of Love" caused some hoo-hah on the internet because of its novel take on marriage.
- If you are especially passionate about some ethical issue or cause, then read their stuff. If you're into political issues, then read political blogs and websites; if you're into animal rights, seek out things put out by PETA or the RSPCA.