

This is the second edition of the *Philosophy Staff-Student Gazette*. The idea is to let everyone know the highlights of things which were discussed and agreed at the Staff Student Consultative Committee.

Weekly Department Tea for Graduate Students & Faculty

Following several requests from graduate students about socializing opportunities, we'd like to announce a Weekly Department Tea! So: *All graduate students and faculty members are hereby cordially invited to tea on Wednesdays from 2pm to 3pm.*

The Inaugural Tea will be at 2pm on 24 April. More details will follow! But the general plan is to hang out, natter, drink tea, chit-chat, eat biscuits, and so forth.

Artificial Intelligence: in class

The student representatives mentioned that some students are using AI to answer questions that they've been asked in lectures and seminars. *Please don't do this!* (Unless your teachers explicitly ask you to do so, for some specific purpose.)

Here's a few things to think about:

1. When a lecturer asks a question, it's not because *they* don't know the answer. It's because they want *you* to think about the question for yourself. Entering the question into ChatGPT, and then reading out the answer, isn't helping you to learn!
2. If you read out an oddly fluent (but sometimes *weirdly* misguided) answer from ChatGPT, you curtail the conversation. So that doesn't help your fellow students.
3. Participation in classes doesn't contribute to your final grade. So *even if* you think ChatGPT will give a more accurate answer than you would... so what?

A final point. You might be tempted to use AI to look up a definition, or remind yourself of a point that was covered earlier. We get it. But still, in that case, it's *much* more helpful just to ask a question to the class! After all, if you're wondering about something, it's a good bet that your fellow students are too.

Artificial Intelligence: in formative and summative work

Some students have attempted to pass off AI-generated work as their own work, in formative and summative assessment. So we need to make two things clear:

1. *This use of AI is academic misconduct.* And if teaching staff suspect this is happening, the regulations in the [Academic Manual](#) apply. The penalties can be severe.
2. *This use of AI is totally irrational.* Even if you *are* trying to cheat (in which case, *don't*), it's a terrible idea. The worst case scenario for you is severe penalties (as mentioned). The best case scenario for you is that your markers don't notice that the content is AI-generated; but even then, the [marking](#)

[criteria](#) we use just won't allow you to get a strong mark. (AI-generated essays aren't sharply focussed on the question at hand, with a strong deployment of relevant readings.)

If you have any questions about what counts as good scholarly practise (versus academic misconduct), or fair (versus illegitimate) use of AI, do talk to your PGTAs, module convenors, or personal tutor.

The UCL hour

A reminder to everyone (staff and students!) that the UCL hour starts on the hour and ends at 10 minutes to. (So: if your timetable says you have a lecture from 12.00 to 13.00, you should expect it to start *at* 12.00, not at 12.05!) Please arrive *on the hour* for lectures!

Upcoming teaching review

In Term 3, the Department will be reviewing how we think about undergraduate teaching. We've heard from the first years that they would prefer more time on guided-learning, and we'll take this into account as we undertake our teaching review.

Philosophy over the Summer

Some students have been considering how they might continue exploring Philosophy over the Summer! Here are a few thoughts:

- [PhilEvents](#) has a really thorough list of (global) philosophy events
- [PhilPapers](#) has a great (semi-curated) selection of readings for all sorts of topics
- Those of you enrolling for the third year Dissertation module should chat with your planned supervisor for suggestions on what to read / think about
- Talk to your Personal Tutor!

Best wishes,

The co-chairs of the SSCC

Tim Button (Head of Department) and Daniel Chandler (MPhil representative)