

Applied Philosophy – Year 9 Elective

Term 1 - Personal & Public Worlds. 25% research task.

Students learn about the way that philosophers see the world around them and how humanity functions. We explore human ethics and values from a variety of social, cultural, political, economic and historical contexts.

Students research the perspectives and teachings of one of the philosophers that we study during the term and hand up their research on that philosopher. Critical thinking is developed through drafting clear paragraphs of analysis that are supported with valid and specific evidence. Deductive reasoning is employed in their thinking and writing.

Term 2 - Future Problem Solving 25% written report on the Annual Philosothon Competition.

(This is an Australasian Philosophy Competition run by The Federation of Australasian Philosophy in Schools Association (FAPSA) <http://fapsa.org.au/philosothon/> and students can choose to participate in this event or to be observers at this event).

Students learn to engage with communities of inquiry on a range of topics building their critical and creative thinking skills. Students continue to build on their skills of presenting solid and accountable reasoning for their own and others' perspectives.

Term 3 - The Art of War/ The Ethics of Peace 25% Pecha Kucha

Students learn about the role and impact of international organisations such as the United Nations; NATO; Doctors Without Borders; Caritas; Amnesty International. The international impact that certain social media followings or groups have is also examined.

Students learn to apply the knowledge gained this term and from Term 1 and Term 2 to recent global conflicts and resolutions in order to build a deep understanding of the concepts of leadership as opposed to warfare mentalities. Their visual, written and oral persuasive skills are assessed in their class presentation of their chosen research topic.

Term 4 - Visions of Leadership 25% Portfolio

"Leadership is the courage, creativity and capacity to inspire participation, development and sustainability for strong communities." (Sir Gustav Nossal). This unit explores what makes a leader and what it takes to be a leader - in any given field

Students will learn about leadership. Like any other skill, successful leadership is about constant improvement and a consistent search for better ways to be able to guide your community or organisation, or to be able to get a message across to a wider audience. Their portfolio is a private document handed up to the teacher for double marking with the Head of Enrichment & Support.

In Term 1 and Term 4 the Philosophy students travel to and host various GATSTA (Gifted and Talented Secondary Teacher Association) Cluster Day events. These include exploration of 'Confronting Concepts'; 'Maths Philosophy'; 'Creative Thinking'; 'Philosothon' and 'Beaux & Belles'. Students do not need a specific mark or rank to enrol in this course. It is designed for all students who desire to learn about the 'how' and the 'why' of our humanity. If you have any queries please feel free to contact mwaterson@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au.