



World History & Philosophy Reading List

We're looking forward to welcoming you to the World History & Philosophy course, and we hope you're looking forward to joining us too!

If you'd like to start exploring the subject ahead of the start of your course, here's a list of resources that will help you engage with some of the ideas you'll be exploring in more depth across the two weeks. These are by no means in order of importance and you don't have to look at all of them – let your instinct choose what sounds most interesting to you.

- **Book: Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari** – This fascinating book provides a sweeping overview of human history, from the emergence of Homo sapiens to the present day. It covers many of the themes and topics that will be explored in the course.
- **Book: The Story of Philosophy by Will Durant** – This book is a lively and engaging exploration of the major thinkers and ideas in philosophy, from ancient Greece to modern times. With a clear and accessible writing style, Will Durant brings to life the fascinating world of philosophy, making it accessible to readers of all backgrounds and interests.
- **Book: The Swerve: How the World Became Modern by Stephen Greenblatt** - This book is a gripping tale of the rediscovery of a lost masterpiece of ancient poetry and its profound impact on the Renaissance and the development of modern thought. Stephen Greenblatt weaves together history, philosophy and literary analysis in a fascinating and thought-provoking exploration of the birth of the modern world.
- **Article: How did the ancient Greeks change the world? BBC** - In this interactive resource, learn how the ancient Greeks changed the world and still continue to have an influence today.

Link: Read [here](#)

- **Video: Ancient Mesopotamia 101 by National Geographic** – People say the story of civilisation begins in one place - Mesopotamia. Ancient Mesopotamia proved that fertile land and the knowledge of how to cultivate it was a fortuitous recipe for wealth and civilisation. In this video, learn how this "land between two rivers" became

the birthplace of the world's first cities, advancements in maths and science, and the earliest evidence of literacy and a legal system.

Link: Watch [here](#)

- **Video: The Industrial Revolution by BBC Teach** – This clip is from the BBC series *Andrew Marr's History of the World*. Marr goes on an epic journey through 70,000 years of human history, telling the story of how great forces of nature and individual genius shaped the world we live in today. This clip focuses on the Industrial Revolution, which was a period of huge technological innovation and economic change.

Link: Watch [here](#)

- **Video: What is Philosophy for? by The School of Life** – From a distance, philosophy can seem strange and irrelevant to many non enthusiasts. But what are philosophers really for? Watch this video to find out more!

Link: Watch [here](#)

Next Steps:

We're really looking forward to welcoming you to the World History & Philosophy course! If you'd like to take your learning to the next level, you're welcome to join one of our other programmes too – many of our students sign up to multiple programmes as they prepare for their futures. Your options include:

- Our two week [online International Relations, Politics & Leadership course](#) is an excellent addition to this course – you'll cover different topics and cement your knowledge of the world today and broaden your existing history and philosophy understanding.
- At Oxford Scholastica, we run a residential Oxford Summer School every summer - you might be interested in the [Experience International Relations, Politics & Leadership Academy](#). This is an immersive, two-week residential experience which takes place on the Oxford University campus – you'll take your understanding of the world to the next level and meet like-minded students from around the world.
- You might be also interested in the Oxford Scholastica [Experience Debate & Public Speaking Academy](#). This will be the perfect fit for you if you'd like to really focus on your presentation and public speaking skills, which will stand you in fantastic stead for whichever subject or career you decide to pursue.

Other Resources:

Clarity about your future career direction will help you in your academic studies and in your university applications. We've created a quick Careers Test to help you to know what careers might suit you best. You'll then receive a personalised Careers Report, with recommended careers and resources to explore. We hope you'll find it useful!

Try the Test [here](#)