



Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method Charter

Preamble

The Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method is committed to creating an inclusive community where diverse perspectives are valued and where open discourse is encouraged. Through our teaching, research, and wider engagement, we aim to promote intellectual curiosity and reasoned debate.

This Charter serves as a guiding framework to ensure that members of our department – including staff, students, and guests – uphold these principles to cultivate an inclusive, welcoming and respectful academic environment.

Teaching and Learning

The Department embodies LSE's long tradition of analytic, interdisciplinary, and socially engaged philosophy. To ensure an optimal learning environment, we aim to cultivate certain behaviours during classes and seminars:

- **Punctuality:** Arrive to class on time to maintain a smooth and productive learning environment.
- **Engagement:** Engage in all learning opportunities, including independent study and participation in lectures, seminars, assessments, research, and similar activities. Make academic and professional work a high priority and take responsibility for evaluating your progress.
- **Resourcefulness:** Familiarise yourself with the essential resources that the Department offers, including Moodle pages and any handbook that is aimed at your role in the department.
- **Correspondence:** Check your LSE email regularly. Read the emails that you receive from staff and students in the department and the School and act promptly whenever a response is required.
- **Attendance:** Inform the relevant person(s) if you are going to be absent or delayed for an activity where you are expected to be present.
- **Preparedness:** Come to class prepared, having completed assigned readings or tasks, and ready to participate in discussions and activities.
- **Constructive feedback:** We encourage constructive feedback to fellow students and teaching staff, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and mutual respect.



- Support: Proactively seek advice and assistance on academic and other matters from sources such as Programme Directors, Academic Mentors, and Professional Services.
- Sensitivity: Be mindful of how sensitive/difficult content may be received and deliver any such content with appropriate respect and delicacy. You may want to forewarn your audience about any sensitive topics that you may cover, so that your audience can adequately prepare.
- Respect: Treat your peers, teachers and guests with respect, and with consideration for how they wish to be addressed, including their academic titles, chosen names and pronouns.

Discussion Norms

We encourage discussion of different views, acknowledging that there can be strong disagreement at times. We therefore ask all LSE Philosophy members to uphold the highest standards when engaging in a discussion:

- Open-mindedness: Discussions are not only about presenting one's own point of view, but also about learning from about other's perspectives. Active listening strengthens critical thinking and builds bridges. It enables you to understand your own views better and improve or revise your arguments.
- Respectful communication: Discussions can become intense at times. Participants are free to discuss all philosophically relevant aspects of a topic. We ask everyone to take an inclusive approach and choose their words with thought and consideration for others. Threatening or aggressive behaviour is not tolerated. This applies to discussion inside and outside the classroom.
- Agree to disagree: Few debates are settled with everyone reaching the same conclusion. The goal should be to consider others' arguments with an open mind and promote mutual understanding.
- Respect boundaries: We encourage philosophical discussions beyond the classroom. But be mindful that others may prefer not to participate and take care to respect others' boundaries.

Social behaviour and events

The Department organises various events to foster academic discourse, disseminate research, inspire debate and to develop a rich departmental community. Events are a great opportunity to broaden your horizon as well your network in formal as well as informal settings. We ask all attendees to contribute to a safe and respectful environment when attending events:



- Respectful behaviour: Treat everyone with respect and avoid threatening or aggressive behaviour. This includes both in-person events and when interacting online through virtual learning environments (e.g. Moodle), social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram etc.), blogs or other web resources.
- Inclusivity: Contribute to an inclusive environment by being respectful of all attendees, regardless of their background, identity, or beliefs.
- Confidentiality: Please do not share any information that might be confidential or sensitive. This can be information you obtained during discussions or presentations involving ongoing research or personal experiences. If in doubt, please check with the person in question beforehand.
- Compliance with policies: Follow any event-specific policies or guidelines provided by the organisers, including rules regarding photography.

Awareness and care for others

We encourage all Department members to be mindful of the wellbeing of those around them and to utilise the available resources to support themselves and others.

- Be aware of the support available from resources such as the Student Disability, Wellbeing Service, and the Students' Union and Advice Service.
- Show consideration for the welfare of your peers and provide advice on seeking help if appropriate.

Further support and information

- How to report an incident: [Report-an-incident](#)
- LSE's Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy: [harPol.pdf](#)
- LSE's Ethics Code: [Ethics-Code](#)

Postscript

This document is neither complete nor exhaustive. We will revisit and improve this document periodically. If you have any questions or suggested amendments, please contact the departmental EDI Committee: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/philosophy/edi-committee/>

Last update: 17 October 2024