

# Unit 1: The Nuts and Bolts of Philosophy

**Unit Overview:** As life gets more complicated, it gets more confusing. Every day, more thorny problems-politics, the environment, religion, education, technology, family, the community-clamber for attention. Learning some philosophy can help you deal with life's difficulties by taking you away from them for a while, and leading you back to them with new ideas about what it's all about.

Philosophy doesn't have to be hard to understand. It does help if you have some basic questions in mind as you look into a new philosophy. How do the new ideas compare with the ones you already think about? What problems do the new ideas have that the old ones don't? What problems does the new thinking manage to avoid?

We will think about philosophy in terms of three basic issues: Being, knowing, and acting. Philosophy continually asks questions about these issues: What exists? Is existence organized? What counts as knowledge? How do we know things? How should we act? Do we act according to human nature? Keeping these questions in mind makes it easier to make sense of particular philosophical ideas and of philosophy in general.

-(Taken from *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Philosophy*)

| Date     | Topic  | Reading | Learning Target   | Key Vocabulary   |
|----------|--|---------|---|--|
| Mon 8/26 | No School                                      |         |   |  |
| Tue 8/27 | Introductions                                  |         |   |  |
| Wed 8/28 | Intro to Logical Fallacies                     |         | Describe each of the 12 key logical fallacies discussed in class.   |  |
| Thu 8/29 | Logical Fallacies research                     |         | Find examples of logical fallacies in modern arguments  |  |
| Fri 8/30 | No School                                      |         |   |  |
|          |  |         |   |  |
| Mon 9/2  | No School (Labor Day)                          |         |   |  |
| Tue 9/3  | Logical Fallacies research                     |         | Find examples of logical fallacies in modern arguments  |  |
| Wed 9/4  | Logical Fallacies Presentations                |         | Evaluate the examples found by your own group and others.   |  |
| Thu 9/5  | Class Participation discussion/rubric creation |         | Develop a class participation rubric that incentivizes the ideal class atmosphere.  |  |
| Fri 9/6  | Intro to Philosophy                            |         | Gather your own thoughts regarding the basic questions of philosophy  | Lexicon<br>Ontology<br>Epistemology<br>Ethics                                |
|          |  |         |   |  |
| Mon 9/9  | Intro to Ontology                              |         | Develop a basic understanding of the study of "being."<br>Identify and explain a few of the key thinkers and thoughts in the field of Ontology.       | Metaphysics<br>Vitalism<br>Dualism<br>Materialism                            |
| Tue 9/10 | Intro to Epistemology                          |         | Develop a basic understanding of the study of "knowing."<br>Identify and explain a few of the key thinkers and thoughts in the field of Epistemology. | Rationalism<br>Empiricism<br>Dialectic<br>Induction<br>Deduction<br>Ideology |
| Wed 9/11 | Intro to Ethics                                |         | Develop a basic understanding of the study of "acting."   |  |

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|          |               |  | Identify and explain a few of the key thinkers and thoughts in the field of Ethics. |  |
| Thu 9/12 | Review        |  |   |  |
| Fri 9/13 | Unit One Quiz |  |   |  |
|          |               |  |   |  |