

Literature suggestions for prospective students 'Premaster Philosophy' at Tilburg University

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1. Cautionary note

These literature suggestions are meant for students who want to start one of the Premaster Philosophy programs at Tilburg University and who want to read up on philosophy because they have no experience with or background in philosophy. These are merely suggestions for students who want to read philosophy; it is *not* part of the curriculum, nor is it required for students to read these works before starting the premaster. Teachers will *not* assume you have read all this and there will be no exam questions on any of this.

Deze leeslijst is bedoeld voor studenten die willen beginnen met één van de Premaster programma's Filosofie aan Tilburg University, maar die nog geen achtergrond hebben in de filosofie. Dit zijn vrijblijvende suggesties voor studenten die graag, buiten het curriculum om, al wat willen inlezen. Dit is *geen* verplichte leerstof, er worden geen tentamenvragen over gesteld en docenten verwachten *niet* dat je dit allemaal gelezen hebt.

2. General literature suggestions (philosophy in general; for all prospective premaster students)

- Simon Blackburn (2001), *Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

ISBN: 9780192854254

Translated as: *Denk: Filosofie en de grote vragen van het leven*. Amsterdam: Lemniscaat. ISBN: 9789056372552.

Links: <https://www.bol.com/nl/f/think/30400547> and <https://www.bol.com/nl/p/denk-filosofie-en-de-grote-vragen-van-het-leven/666863508/>

Explanation: This is an introductory book in which a respected contemporary philosopher analyzes some of the main themes in philosophy. It is not a textbook but a book aimed at a broader audience and can thus serve as an appetizer and as a way to get acquainted with what philosophy is and how it is done.

Uitleg: dit is een inleidend werk in de grote thema's van de filosofie door een gerespecteerd hedendaags filosoof. Het is geen handboek, maar een boek geschreven voor een ruimer publiek, dat dus dient als een voorproefje, om een idee te krijgen van en de smaak te pakken te krijgen voor filosofie, wat het is en hoe het bedreven wordt.

- Anthony Kenny (2012), *A New History of Western Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

ISBN: 9780199656493

Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/p/new-history-of-western-philosophy/1001004011851905/>

Explanation: This is a thorough historical overview of Western Philosophy (1000 pages). It offers a summary of the insights, arguments and theories of the many philosophers working in this tradition but does not offer any primary literature. Because it is an introductory overview, there is less actual 'philosophizing'. As such, the reading can be less engaging.

Uitleg: Dit is een grondig historisch overzicht van de Westerse filosofie (1000 bladzijden). Het biedt een samenvatting van de inzichten, argumenten en theorieën van de vele filosofen uit deze traditie, maar biedt dus geen primaire literatuur. Omdat het een inleidend overzicht is, wordt er niet echt 'gefilosoferd' in het boek. De lectuur kan daardoor vrij 'droog' zijn.

3. Specific literature suggestions (for the three different Master tracks)

A. Ethiek van Bedrijf en Organisatie

- René Ten Bos & Mollie Painter-Morland (2013), *Bedrijfsethiek: filosofische perspectieven*. Meppel: Boom.
ISBN: 9789461050359
Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/p/bedrijfsethiek/9200000010167568/>
- Ad Verbrugge, Govert Buijs & Jelle van Baardewijk (2018), *Het goede leven en de vrije markt*. Rotterdam: Lemniscaat.
ISBN: 9789047709589
Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/p/het-goede-leven-de-vrije-markt/9200000095604974/>
- Russ Roberts (2015), *How Adam Smith Can Change Your Life: An Unexpected Guide to Nature and Happiness*. London: Penguin.
ISBN: 9780241003206
Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/p/how-adam-smith-can-change-your-life/9200000040342836/>

B. Philosophy of Contemporary Challenges

The following books introduce the main contemporary ideas, authors and theories in the domains of political philosophy and ethics.

- Jonathan Wolff (2015), *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*. Third edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
ISBN: 9780199658015
Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/f/an-introduction-to-political-philosophy/30246221/>
Explanation: This short book thematically introduces the main strands and authors in political philosophy by focusing on the following questions. What justifies the state and who should rule? What is the role of liberty and property and how do individualism, justice and feminism relate?
- Adam Swift (2019), *Political Philosophy: A Beginners' Guide for Students and Politicians*. Fourth edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.
ISBN: 9781509533350
Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/p/political-philosophy/9200000097620917/>

Explanation: This slightly more extensive book goes into the big ideas in political philosophy: democracy, liberty, equality, democracy, et cetera. In this accessible book, Swift relates the abstract theoretical discussions to actual political practice and illustrates this with examples from political life.

- Michael Sandel (2009), *Justice: What's The Right Thing to Do?* New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux.
ISBN: 9780374532505

Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/f/justice/38178767/>

Explanation: This book is based on Michael Sandel's famous 'Justice' course at Harvard University. He goes into the best known theories of justice (such as John Rawls' theory of justice, utilitarianism, et cetera) and discusses pressing current-day issues and hot topics such as same-sex marriage, affirmative action and the moral limits of markets.

C. *Philosophy of Humanity and Culture*

The following books help gain a more thorough understanding of Western culture and identity. One can distinguish between books from important modern Western philosophers (primary literature) and book from contemporary writers working on these topics.

Primary literature:

- Immanuel Kant (2006), 'What is Enlightenment?' In: I. Kant, *Towards Perpetual Peace and Other Writings on Politics, Peace, and History*. Edited and introduced by Pauline Kleingeld. Translated by David L. Colclasure. New Haven: Yale University Press.

ISBN: 9780300110708

Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/p/toward-perpetual-peace-and-other-writings-on-politics-peace-and-history/1001004002899487/>

- Friedrich Nietzsche (1999), *The Birth of Tragedy and Other Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

ISBN: 9780521639873

Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/p/cambridge-texts-in-the-history-of-philosophy/1001004000583378/>

- Theodor Adorno & Max Horkheimer (2002), *Dialectics of Enlightenment. Philosophical Fragments*. Edited by Gunzelin Schmid Noerr. Translated by Edmund Jephcott. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

ISBN: 9780804736336

Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/p/dialectic-of-enlightenment/1001004001671425/>

Secondary literature:

- James Schmidt (1996), *What is Enlightenment? Eighteenth-Century Answers and Twentieth-Century Questions*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

ISBN: 9780520202269

Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/f/what-is-enlightenment/9200000001434658/>

- Frederick C. Beiser (2003), *The Romantic Imperative: The Concept of Early German Romanticism*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

ISBN: 9780674019805

Link: <https://www.bol.com/nl/p/the-romantic-imperative/1001004002665367/>