

Between Heaven and Earth: The Search for God

Dive into the dialogue between faith and reason

OVERVIEW	
Period	Spring term 2025
Data	January 31 - May 23, 2025 16 weeks of class - 3 hours per week Every Friday 14.30 - 17.30 No class on March 28 (vacation)
Location	Rapenburg 6, Leiden
Language	English / Dutch
Cost	€2.995 per semester <i>There are various foundations providing scholarships for students. Many students already attended via a scholarship.</i>
Teacher	Mr. Gerard Versluis and Dr. Jordi Wiersma
Dean	Gerard Versluis
Email	aanmeldingen@pascalinstituut.nl

Course description

Philosophy and theology both explore the most fundamental questions: the nature of existence, the possibility of a supreme being, and what gives life meaning. Through readings ranging from the Bible and Augustine's Confessions to Kant and Kierkegaard, you will reflect on the relationship between faith and reason, and consider whether a clear line truly separates philosophy from theology.

Course schedule

Date	Reading	Teacher
Jan 31	<i>Genesis</i> 1-11	Wiersma
Feb 7	<i>Genesis</i> 12-50	Wiersma
Feb 14	<i>Exodus</i>	Wiersma
Feb 21	<i>Gospel according to St. Matthew</i>	Wiersma
Feb 28	<i>Gospel according to St. John</i>	Wiersma
Mar 7	<i>Letter to the Romans</i>	Wiersma
Mar 14	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , 1-5	Versluis
Mar 21	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , 6-9	Versluis
Mar 28	<i>No class: vacation</i>	
Apr 4	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , 10-11	Versluis
Apr 11	Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> , Pars I, q1-2, q3 a3-4	Versluis
Apr 18	Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> , Pars I, q12	Versluis
Apr 25	Immanuel Kant, <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Chapters 1-2	Versluis
May 2	Immanuel Kant, <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Chapters 2-3	Versluis

May 9	Søren Kierkegaard, <i>Philosophical Fragments</i> , I-III	Versluis
May 16	Søren Kierkegaard, <i>Philosophical Fragments</i> , IV-V	Versluis
May 23	Examination	

Admission standards

Advanced students in all fields. Recently graduated or professional: you are very welcome too.

Instruction and examination

All class sessions will be conducted as “seminars,” or Socratic conversations, using the week’s reading as the subject matter. Students are expected to actively participate in the discussion for the duration of each class session.

The use of electronic devices (such as laptops or phones) is not allowed during this course, in order to improve concentration and the quality of conversation.

The course will be concluded with an examination. More specific instructions regarding the examination will be provided after enrollment.

Enrollment

The application period is until January 4th, 2025. You will receive the outcome of your application on January 7th, 2025.

