



huish **HEADSTART**

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics



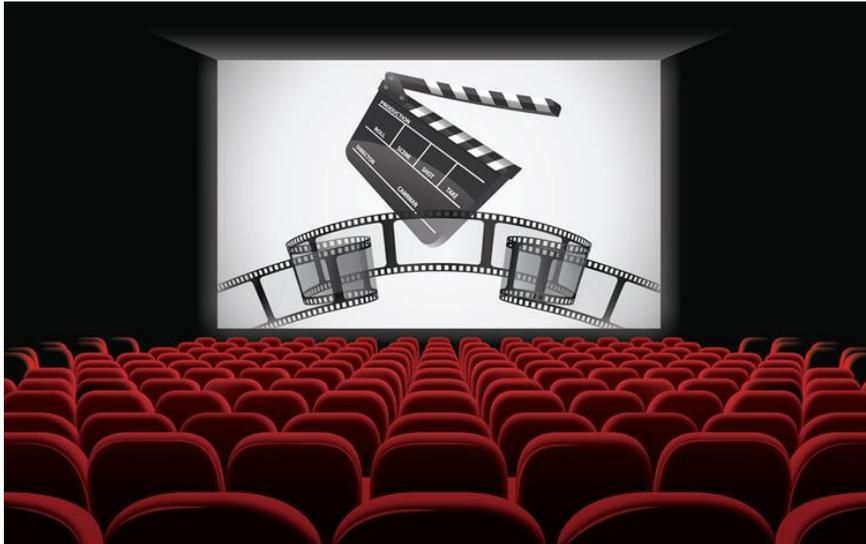
Getting ready to study

An Introduction to our course using the medium of Film



Philosophy Religion and Ethics is truly universal subject: all humans form, indeed, have to form, views in each of the three aspects of our study. Not just that, the things they do and the lives they lead will relate to them in many ways.

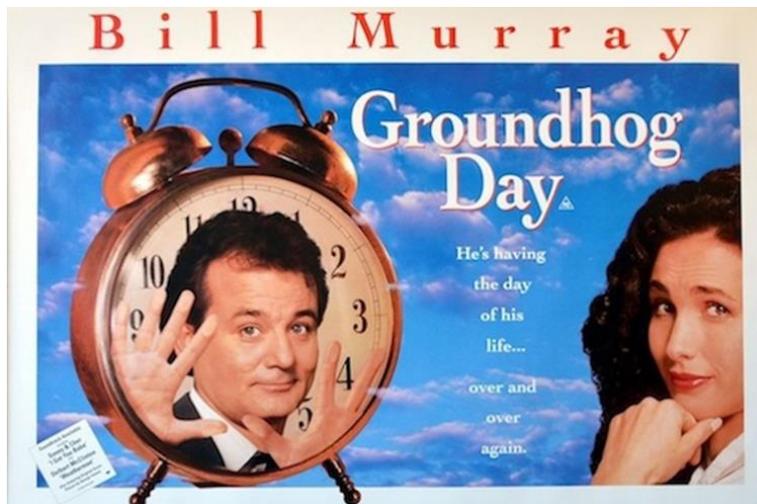
PRE's reach touches all aspects of life but they inhabit culture - literature, music, TV, theatre and others. Film is a relatively **are you missing something here**



artform, but it is full of materials we can use to help us understand the issues better. So, to begin preparations for the course I have chosen a film for you to watch to help you begin to formally consider some of the “big questions.”

Netflix users should find it easily enough, otherwise, libraries and Amazon etc should have it at a reasonable price.

I am asking you to watch a film whose title has become part of the English Language





Having found and watched the film I want you to answer the questions. Please write in full sentences. Please email your responses to me at martins@richuish.ac.uk

1 - If there were no consequences for us in the future would our behaviour be worse or better?

2 - Does behaving well morally and ethically really make us happier as the film suggests?

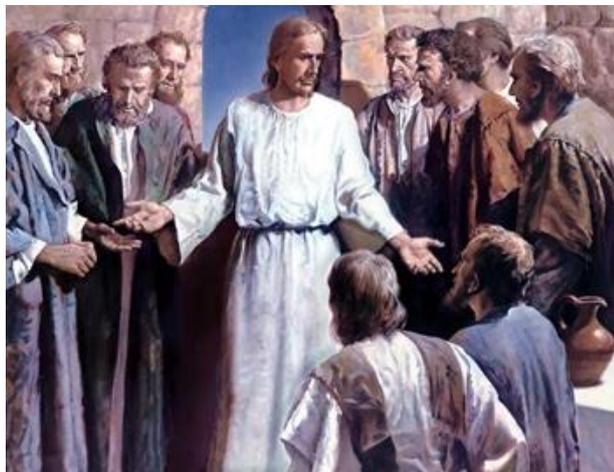
3 - Is it fair that some pleasures like reading poetry or admiring a painting in a gallery are considered "higher pleasures" than eating takeaway food or playing online bingo?



or



4 - The story of Groundhog Day is not literally (no, really) How important is it that stories like Jesus' resurrection, the Angel Jibril's appearance to the Prophet Mohammed or Buddha's enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree are literally true.





5 - In the film the central character, Phil Connor keeps coming back to the same day again and again (it has been calculated he spent 34 years in the same day). Research what Buddhists believe in the topic of rebirth and then see if you can find out how such beliefs differ from Hindus.

6 - Why is Groundhog Day in its outcome like the goal of Buddhism?



7 - In the course we will consider the idea that God made the Universe ex nihilo (from nothing). Research the theory of the Big Bang. Does it support this idea or not?

8 - If God did create the world, many people would say He would have a lot to answer for, like Coronavirus! What do you think the existence of evil and pain is down to:

Perhaps choose from one of these options:

Evil & pain prove that there is no God

Evil & pain are a test from God

We are free to make the world and evil and pain are down

to us

Only God knows the answer to this inscrutable mystery

Without pain we can never know pleasure



9 - The idea behind Groundhog Day is a piece of superstition. Are such beliefs helpful, unhelpful or neither? In other words should we only believe in what we can support with physical evidence?



10 - In the USA, where the film is situated, the vast majority of people believe in God. Many millions of them voted for a President who claimed to cure Coronavirus by drinking disinfectant. What do you think of the argument that suggests that that mean that Americans are stupid?



These questions are designed to get you thinking. Perhaps you could discuss them with friends and family.

Martin

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