

# Dārśanik Club

“The Unexamined Life is not worth Living..”  
Socrates

“Critical Thinking is Ornaments for Student of Philosophy..”

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There are no club dues and you don't need to sign up or do any kind of homework for the club. Steady attendance is not expected and you can come to as many or as few of the meetings as you'd like—you won't be left out of the loop if you can't make it every week. No expertise is required; we can work with any background and any level of familiarity with philosophy. One needs only to be curious and respectful to participate.

## What Is The Dārśanik Club?

The Dārśanik Club provides students at the DMM the opportunity to interact with each other and with faculty, both to share similar interests and to discuss philosophical issues, hold study sessions, host forums, and to present papers. The Philosophy Club is meant to provide a safe space for both philosophical dialogue and social engagement, and participates in a variety of activities to this end. In addition to weekly meetings, the Club has hosted gatherings in class rooms, smaller focus groups, and movie screening. Topics have included experimental philosophy, Daily philosophy, game theory, psychopaths, and philosophy of film.

## Who Can Participate?

The Dārśanik club is not just for philosophy majors. Students from all disciplines can regularly attend club meetings and add a great deal to the diversity of views held and opinions contributed to our discussions.

Philosophy has very broad application and can be applied to any subject. Trying to find a counterexample? Congratulations, you're doing philosophy already! If you think that science has obviated the need for philosophy, come give us your argument! If you think philosophy is a distracting waste of public resources in which problems never really get solved, come give us your argument! If you think there is a certain political position that we all ought to be supporting, come give us your argument! If you think video games have a problem with the way they present women, come give us your argument!

## Mission Statement of the Club:

The goal of the Dārśanik club is to foster greater philosophical discourse and interest amongst the youngest community of DMM, promoting thoughtful engagement with issues of the past and the present that have philosophical overtones.

# Dārśanik Club

## Vision Statement of the Club:

As a club, we would like to have two primary functions within youngest community of DMM: to serve as a center of discourse and community for students involved in any capacity in the department of philosophy, and to provide youngest greater community with events of various kinds that improve the general knowledge of philosophy, its method, and its relevance to current issues, debates, and important ideas.

## Philosophy Statement of the Club:

We, at Department of Philosophy, DMM, believe that our charge is to facilitate active learning and foster the knowledge, critical thinking and life/work skills required for participation in our global society. We work with our community partners to enrich the intellectual, cultural and economic fabric of our district. We believe that excellence in education must occur in an ethical climate of integrity and respect. We hold that the strength of our society is rooted in our **diversity** and that it is through synergy that we achieve excellence.

## Core Values of the Club:

We value **Respect, Integrity, Collaboration** and **Excellence**.

*\*\*\*We guide our work and support our philosophy, mission and vision by these core values.*

## Club Rules: Being Socrates

To facilitate the smooth operation of your Dārśanik Club, we suggest setting some basic ground rules such as the following:

1. All participants must respect one another and their views although it is acceptable and important to challenge views. No one should be made to feel uncomfortable or attacked in any way.
2. Everyone must be responsible for his or her ideas and welcome supportive questions and challenges from the members.
3. Everyone should contribute by speaking, listening and thinking.
4. Either have the facilitate or depending upon the age of participants, rotate the “chair” position.

## What a Dārśanik Club is NOT

To help establish the form and substance of your club it might be helpful to reflect on what a philosophy club should **not** be:

1. It is not a debate society where the most aggressive point of view wins;
2. It is not to promote or to the interests of the participating students, not simply the adult facilitator.
3. It is not a political or religious organization that is dedicated to a specific set of beliefs.

# Darśanik Club

## Activities to Try:

- Create your own philosophy game.
- Bring in photos or pictures to stimulate a discussion.
- Write philosophical poem, short stories, comic etc.
- Watch a movie or TV show for philosophical ideas.
- Sponsor a Be-a-philosophers Day.
- Create and perform your own Platonic Dialogues.

## Topics to be discussed in 2021-2023 (Last week day of every month):

- October 29: What is Philosophy and How to Do It?
- November 26: The Trolley Problem
- December 29: Can Art be Censored?
- January 25: What is Red?
- February 2: The Ship of Theseus and Personal Identity
- March 27: Philosophy Film Night: Slavoj Zizek's Pervert's Guide to Cinema
- April 23: Freud in Film: Projecting Psychology
- May 31: Newcomb's Paradox: Causality and Decision Theory
- June 26: Rawls' Initial Position: Justice in Theory
- July 24: The Chinese Room Experiment: Questions of Consciousness and Mind
- August 28: The Weak Anthropic Principle: Privilege in Compatible Observation
- September 28: Wittengenstein: Mind, Language, and Universe
- October 25: The Role of the Philosopher: The Trial of Socrates

- November 23: Information Hazards: Can Knowledge be Harmful?
- December 30: The Drowning Child Thought Experiment
- January 30: Opiate of the Masses: Anti-vaccination and Civil Rights
- February 28: Understanding Abraham: Can Faith be Reasoned?
- March 31: Philosophy Movie Night: American Psycho
- April 26: Fake Barn Country: Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?
- May 20: Is Capitalism Moral?
- June 25: Is Ignorance of Oppression Desirable?
- July 29: The Ideal and the Non-ideal
- August 24: Is it Better to Suffer Injustice or Commit Injustice?
- September 26: The Myth of Sisyphus: Responses to the Absurd
- October 24: Sen's Paradox: The Problem of Liberalism and Capitalism
- November 21: Fire in a Theater: The Limits of Free Speech
- December 29: What is Life?

PROMOTED BY:

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