

Texts I | PIU22061

Year	Senior Freshman
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	22 hours
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Prof. Farbod Akhlaghi & Prof. James Levine
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Module Outline:

This module involves reading two texts in philosophy and exploring their topics and themes in depth. The first is *The Heart and Its Attitudes* by Stephen Darwall, and the second is *The Objects of Thought* by Tim Crane.

Component One: *The Heart and its Attitudes* by Stephen Darwall

We often say things like ‘they acted from the heart’ or that someone is ‘warm-hearted’ or ‘cold-hearted’. Analytic philosophers don’t often write about the heart. That may partly be because of the fear that talk of ‘the heart’ seems hopelessly metaphorical. Stephen Darwall disagrees and has offered an account of ‘the heart’ as ‘a cluster of emotional susceptibilities that have an essentially reciprocal and reciprocating structure.’ Exploring ‘attitudes of the heart’ – love, trust, gratitude, personal anger, jealousy, and others – Darwall examines how these attitudes mediate personal relationships, attachment, and connection, through vivid examples and engagement with a range of figures including Frederick Douglass, James Baldwin, and Iris Murdoch. In Component One, we will explore love, trust, gratitude, and more through reading Darwall’s *The Heart and its Attitudes* (2024, OUP).

Component Two: *The Objects of Thought* by Tim Crane

In the second component of this module, we will focus on Tim Crane’s 2013 book *The Objects of Thought*, which is concerned with the issue (sometimes called the issue of intentionality) of what is it to think *about* an object. Crane distinguishes between two views on the topic—the relational view of intentionality, according to which in order to think about an object, there must (in reality) be that object for us to think about; and the non-relational view, according to which thinking about an object does not require that there is (in reality) an object for us to think about. Crane defends a non-relational theory, and we will examine his arguments for that view and the consequences of it.



Assessment:

Coursework: one essay for Component 1 and one essay for Component 2: 50%

Examination: one exam comprising two examination questions (one from Component 1 and one from Component 2): 50%

Recommended Reading List:

An extended reading list will be made available at the start of the module. But for helpful overview reading in preparation, see:

For Component One:

- Darwall, Stephen. (2024). Philosophers don't often write about the heart. In *The OUPBlog*: <https://blog.oup.com/2024/04/philosophers-dont-often-write-about-the-heart/>
- Strawson, Peter. (1962). Freedom and Resentment. *Proceedings of the British Academy* 48: 187–211.

For Component Two:

- Crane, Tim. (2013). *The Objects of Thought*. Oxford: University Press. (See Chapter 1 for an overview.)