

PHILOSOPHYME

# 14-Week Study Plan

*A Guided Path Through 2,600 Years of Philosophy*

7 Eras · 6 Branches · 7 Companion Chapters · 25 Thought Experiments

Companion Guide + the PhilosophyMe website + primary texts

[philosophyme.co](http://philosophyme.co)

# How to Use This Plan

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This study plan is a suggested path, not a rigid schedule. It pairs the PhilosophyMe Companion Guide with free resources on the website and a small amount of primary-text reading to give you a structured, self-paced introduction to Western philosophy.

Each of the seven blocks covers one historical era and one branch of philosophy over two weeks. The first week focuses on reading the companion chapter and exploring the era's thinkers on the site. The second week takes you deeper: a short primary text, the branch essay on the site, and one or two thought experiments from the Thought Experiments guide.

You don't need to follow the timeline exactly. Spend longer where something grabs you. Skip what doesn't interest you. Come back to blocks later. The goal is to build a broad foundation and discover which questions and thinkers speak to you — not to rush through a checklist.

## What You'll Need

The PhilosophyMe Companion Guide — seven eras of Western philosophy in one volume, plus 25 thought experiments included free. Available at [philosophyme.co/guides](http://philosophyme.co/guides).

The PhilosophyMe website ([philosophyme.co](http://philosophyme.co)) — free. You'll use the era pages, philosopher profiles, and branch essays throughout.

A journal or notebook for the writing prompts. Handwriting is better for reflection, but digital works too.

Access to the primary texts recommended in each chapter. Most are available free online (Project Gutenberg, Internet Archive). The guide includes specific edition and translation recommendations.

## Each Two-Week Block

**Week 1: Read & Explore** — Read the era's companion chapter, explore the era page and philosopher profiles on the site, complete the journal prompts.

**Week 2: Go Deeper** — Read a short primary text, read the branch essay on the site, work through one or two thought experiments from the Thought Experiments guide.

WEEKS 1 – 2

600 BCE – 500 CE

## Ancient Philosophy + Ethics

*The Birth of Reason*

Socrates · Plato · Aristotle · Epicurus · The Stoics

### WEEK 1 • READ & EXPLORE

- Read the Ancient Philosophy chapter in the Companion Guide
- Explore the Ancient era page and philosopher profiles on [philosophyme.co](http://philosophyme.co)
- Complete the guide's journal prompts on virtue, justice, and the good life

### WEEK 2 • GO DEEPER

- Read a primary text from the guide's reading list (start with Plato's Apology)
- Read the Ethics branch essay on the site
- Work through the Ring of Gyges and Trolley Problem in the Thought Experiments guide

WEEKS 3 – 4

400 – 1500 CE

## Medieval Philosophy + Metaphysics

*Faith Meets Reason*

Augustine · Avicenna · Aquinas · Al-Ghazali · The Scholastics

### WEEK 3 • READ & EXPLORE

- Read the Medieval Philosophy chapter in the Companion Guide
- Explore the Medieval era page and philosopher profiles on [philosophyme.co](http://philosophyme.co)
- Complete the guide's journal prompts on faith, reason, and the nature of existence

### WEEK 4 • GO DEEPER

- Read a primary text from the guide's reading list (start with Anselm's Proslogion, chapters 2–4)
- Read the Metaphysics branch essay on the site
- Work through the Ship of Theseus in the Thought Experiments guide

WEEKS 5 – 6

1400 – 1600 CE

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## Renaissance Philosophy + Political Philosophy

*The Rediscovery of Humanity*

Machiavelli · Montaigne · Bacon · Erasmus · The Humanists

**WEEK 5 • READ & EXPLORE**

Read the Renaissance Philosophy chapter in the Companion Guide

Explore the Renaissance era page and philosopher profiles on [philosophyme.co](http://philosophyme.co)

Complete the guide's journal prompts on power, humanism, and the individual

**WEEK 6 • GO DEEPER**Read a primary text from the guide's reading list (start with Machiavelli's *The Prince*, chapters 15–18)

Read the Political Philosophy branch essay on the site

Work through the Veil of Ignorance in the Thought Experiments guide

WEEKS 7 – 8

1600 – 1750 CE

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## Early Modern Philosophy + Epistemology

*The Dawn of Modern Thought*

Descartes · Hobbes · Spinoza · Locke · The Rationalists

**WEEK 7 • READ & EXPLORE**

Read the Early Modern Philosophy chapter in the Companion Guide

Explore the Early Modern era page and philosopher profiles on [philosophyme.co](http://philosophyme.co)

Complete the guide's journal prompts on doubt, knowledge, and the mind–body problem

**WEEK 8 • GO DEEPER**Read a primary text from the guide's reading list (start with Descartes' *Meditations I–II*)

Read the Epistemology branch essay on the site

Work through Plato's Cave and the Brain in a Vat in the Thought Experiments guide

WEEKS 9 – 10

1685 – 1815 CE

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## Enlightenment Philosophy + Political Philosophy

*The Age of Reason*

Hume · Rousseau · Kant · Voltaire · The American Founding

**WEEK 9 • READ & EXPLORE**

- Read the Enlightenment Philosophy chapter in the Companion Guide
- Explore the Enlightenment era page and philosopher profiles on [philosophyme.co](http://philosophyme.co)
- Complete the guide's journal prompts on knowledge, reason, and human rights

**WEEK 10 • GO DEEPER**

- Read a primary text from the guide's reading list (start with Kant's Groundwork, Section I)
- Read the Political Philosophy branch essay on the site
- Work through the Social Contract and State of Nature in the Thought Experiments guide

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WEEKS 11 – 12

1800 – 1900 CE

## 19th-Century Philosophy + Logic

*Revolution and Crisis*

Hegel · Marx · Nietzsche · Mill · The Existentialists

**WEEK 11 • READ & EXPLORE**

- Read the 19th-Century Philosophy chapter in the Companion Guide
- Explore the 19th Century era page and philosopher profiles on [philosophyme.co](http://philosophyme.co)
- Complete the guide's journal prompts on ideology, crisis, and the search for meaning

**WEEK 12 • GO DEEPER**

- Read a primary text from the guide's reading list (start with Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morals, First Essay)
  - Read the Logic branch essay on the site — especially Anatomy of an Argument and Validity, Soundness, and Strength
  - Work through the Chinese Room in the Thought Experiments guide
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WEEKS 13 – 14

1900 CE – Present

# Contemporary Philosophy + Aesthetics

*Freedom and Responsibility*

Sartre · Arendt · Hayek · Rawls · The Postmodernists

## WEEK 13 • READ & EXPLORE

Read the Contemporary Philosophy chapter in the Companion Guide

Explore the Contemporary era page and philosopher profiles on [philosophyme.co](http://philosophyme.co)

Complete the guide's journal prompts on freedom, justice, and the limits of knowledge

## WEEK 14 • GO DEEPER

Read a primary text from the guide's reading list (start with Sartre's *Existentialism Is a Humanism*)

Read the Aesthetics branch essay on the site

Work through the Experience Machine and Mary's Room in the Thought Experiments guide

*“The unexamined life is not worth living.”*

— Socrates, in Plato’s *Apology*

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## Continue Your Journey

**Explore philosophers, eras, and branches**

[philosophyme.co](https://philosophyme.co)

**Get the Companion Guide**

[philosophyme.co/guides](https://philosophyme.co/guides)

**Join the community**

[philosophyme.co/community](https://philosophyme.co/community)

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## PhilosophyMe

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