



THE  
PHOENIX  
INSTITUTE







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# OUR MISSION

Explore together the question:  
“what does it means to be human?”

Foster a deeper understanding  
of the Western tradition



# OUR PILLARS



- **Education:** Strong foundation in Western thought through courses in philosophy, ethics, and literature, humanities.
- **Friendship:** Develop lifelong friendships with people who share a strong desire to change the world
- **Leadership:** Become a positive force for good in the world.



# WHY FRIENDSHIP MATTERS

Strong friendships are essential  
for personal growth.

A common quest for truth thrives surrounded  
by truth meaningful relationships



**Summer Seminars:** Intensive 3-week programs with renowned professors and students from around the world.

**Local Activities:** Lectures, seminars, and cultural events throughout the year.



# SUMMER SEMINAR 2025

## TRUMAU, VIENNA JULY 11 - AUGUST 2

### WHY DEMOCRACY MATTERS

ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE'S  
"DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA"

**DR. PATRICK OVEREEM**

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT IN AMSTERDAM,  
THE NETHERLANDS

Led by Dr. Overeem, this course will explore how modern democracy was built and why it matters. For centuries, monarchy and aristocracy were favored over democracy, whose dominance is recent. Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859) studied it in the U.S., writing *Democracy in America*, an analysis still relevant today. This course explores his work to understand democracy's current challenges and its global impact.

SUMMER SEMINAR 2025

TRUMAU, VIENNA  
JULY 11 - AUGUST 2

# ON THE HUMAN SELF

AUGUSTINE'S *CONFESSIONS*

**DR. SALVADOR ANTUÑANO**

UNIVERSIDAD FRANCISCO DE  
VITORIA, MADRID, SPAIN

What can a 4th-century bishop teach us today? St. Augustine's *Confessions* explore timeless questions—freedom, truth, meaning—amid profound historical change. This course offers a guided reading of his work, uncovering its enduring relevance and insights into human nature, faith, and the search for ultimate purpose through seminar discussions and analysis.

# SUMMER SEMINAR 2025

## TRUMAU, VIENNA JULY 11- AUGUST 2

### BEING FREE IN A BROKEN WORLD

A PHILOSOPHICAL-LITERARY  
EXPLORATION ON MODERNITY

**DR. DIEGO I. ROSALES**

HÁPAX. RESEARCH CENTER  
FOR THE HUMANITIES

This course explores philosopher Gabriel Marcel's distinction between "problems" and "mysteries." While modern thought seeks to solve everything, turning it into a problem, some realities—love, suffering, faith—demand deeper reflection, as they are "mysteries". Through readings from Marcel and literary works by Borges, Poe, Dostoevsky, and others, we will examine how mystery enriches our search for truth, goodness, and beauty.



# WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Phoenix Institute seeks students who are a good fit for our unique community. Here's what we look for:

- **Academically Serious:** We welcome undergraduate and graduate students with a strong academic record who are committed to serious intellectual inquiry.
- **Interested in the Western Tradition:** Our program delves deeply into the roots, history, and ideas that have shaped Western civilization. If you're curious about this tradition and its influence on the world today, the Phoenix Institute is for you.



# WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- **Value-Driven:** We believe strong moral character is essential. Ideal candidates are keen to explore and reflect upon dignity of the human person, the importance of virtue or beauty, truth, and good.
- **Seeks Friendship and Community:** Our summer seminars foster deep friendships and a supportive community. We welcome students who value these connections and are eager to learn alongside driven people from around the world.
- **Ready to Contribute:** The Phoenix Institute is committed to developing future leaders. We look for students who are passionate about making a positive impact on the world and who are eager to learn and grow alongside others.





**If this sounds like  
you, we encourage  
you to apply!**

Pre-register to start  
the admission process



**[www.thephoenixinstitute.org/pre-registration/](http://www.thephoenixinstitute.org/pre-registration/)**