

# Elements of Philosophy of Mathematics

*Between Finger Counting and Abstract Superstructure*

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## INVITATION

I am pleased to share the full syllabus for my upcoming lecture series on the Philosophy of Mathematics, designed for philosophy students and enthusiasts alike. I cordially invite all who are interested to join the open-access introductory lecture, which is free to attend and will serve as our gateway into the discussion of the sensible and supersensible roots of mathematical thought. Following this first session, those who wish to continue the journey through the original texts of Plato, Descartes, and Bacon will be provided with enrollment details for the full module.

## MODULE I: MATHEMATICS AND THE SENSIBLE

What do we naturally feel when we deal with mathematics, and how are we inclined to approach it? These questions—ranging from the most mundane encounters with numbers to the most sophisticated theories—are the focus of this course. We take as our starting point the tradition of ancient rationalism, particularly the Platonic view of mathematics. By reading their original texts and exploring the authors in their own words, we will uncover the religious and philosophical roots of a perspective that seeks to subjugate the messiness of everyday life to higher, ideal forms. This path continues through the work of Descartes and extends into the contemporary debates of theoretical physics that shape our modern understanding of reality.

A central theme of this module is the tension over the sensible qualities of mathematics. We will examine how the rationalist tradition often suppresses these qualities to reach for a pure transcendence, while an opposing approach—the experimental method of figures like Bacon and Hobbes—grounds mathematical reasoning in the physical, sensible world. By tracing this conflict between the rejection of the sensible and its experimental reclamation, we bring the discussion to the threshold of the Kantian problematic. This allows us to clarify the unique junction where these divergent paths meet, shedding light on how we are naturally inclined to think about mathematics today and how these ancient debates continue to manifest in the structures of modern life.

## LECTURE STRUCTURE

Introductory: Why ask philosophical questions about mathematics? (please use the link to poll for the introductory lecture date and time <https://www.when2meet.com/?36077671-87akf>)

### **Submodule I:** Supersensible Reality as Mathematics

- Lecture 1: Ancient Rationalism and Mathematics
- Lecture 2: Plato on Mathematics: The realm of ideas
- Lecture 3: Descartes on Mathematics: Innate ideas

### **Submodule II:** Mathematics in a Clash with Sensible Reality

Lecture 4: Early Modern Empiricism and Mathematics  
Lecture 5: Bacon and the Experimental Method  
Lecture 6: Towards Kantian Philosophy of Mathematics

### **PARTICIPATION DETAILS**

Format: Live interactive lectures via Google Meet.  
Duration: Lectures are held weekly for 60 minutes.  
Materials: Analysis of original foundational texts.  
Schedule: Finalized via student poll for international time zones.