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| **TRACK 1 – Engineering means dealing with conflict and conflicting ideas** |
| **PHASE 1 - The History of Bad Ideas** |
| **Description:**  Why do we still use Daylight Savings Time which was introduced to conserve coal during WW1? Is GDP really the best global measure of how well a country is doing? Has email created more problems than it solves? And are ‘Climate Change’ and ‘Global Warming’ poor metaphors that confuse rather than clarify environmental dangers?  In this course, you will reflect on potentially Bad Ideas that persist in the modern world. You will identify more examples and look to find arguments to show why they should be abandoned.  Objective: To be able to reflect about the history of ideas and their various effects on human behaviours. Using tools drawn from Politics and History– you will explore the history of bad ideas and learn to make your case against them. The aim is to encourage a more critical awareness of how bad ideas can persist in societies despite evidence against their usefulness, as well as providing an opportunity for students to improve their English language skills in articulating complex ideas and arguments.    To achieve this, we will rely on a critical approach using various essays, videos and podcasts showing alternative views of these ideas.    Activities include:   * Researching the historical reasons behind ideas like ‘Daylight Savings Time’ and sovereignty * Constructing a watertight argument against a ‘bad idea’ that persists in the modern era * Preparing a video essay arguing for or against a Bad Idea     Language skills sought are especially:   * Expressing causality * Expressing temporality * Expressing conditionality and possibility |
| **Assignments:**   * Critical arguments against Bad Ideas * Research, explain and present a video essay on a bad idea |
| **Prof:**  Neil Fitzgerald |
| **References:**  David Runciman, ‘The History of Bad Ideas’, *Past Present Future* podcast  Mehdi Hasan, *Win Every Argument: The Art of Debating, Persuading and Public Speaking* (2024)  Tom Chatfield, *Critical Thinking - Your Guide to Effective Argument, Successful Analysis and Independent Study* |