

## World-renowned illusionist Derren Brown gave a talk at NCH on his philosophy book ‘Happy’

World-renowned illusionist Derren Brown, who is well known for his magical tricks gave a special talk at New College of the Humanities (NCH) on his latest book '[Happy: Why more or less everything is absolutely fine](#)'.

Brown, who gave his talk to NCH's students, alumni as well as prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students at Bloomsbury's Mary Ward House, discussed the main themes of his philosophy book, in particular how the philosophical concept of [Stoicism](#) can help people live happy, informed and fulfilled lives.

In his talk, Brown also drew on some of the limitations of goal-setting literature, and challenges resulting from the current political climate which may leave people feel disempowered.

"We do live more fulfilled lives if we accept that certain things lie beyond our realm of influence. This doesn't mean we should not be engaged to what is happening around us, but invest those energies wisely", Brown told the audience.

Professor AC Grayling, Master, New College of the Humanities, who reviewed Brown's book noting that it should be on everyone's reading list, said after the talk: "Derren is a gifted human being: a brilliant magician; a fantastic writer on magic; and - as I recently learnt - a very talented painter as well. We greatly appreciated his lecture to our students on his ideas about Stoicism."

Brown, whose famous tricks include [Russian Roulette](#) and who made his TV debut in the year 2000 with the TV series [Mind Control](#), spent three years researching and writing his book. He's currently busy rehearsing for his latest show due out later this year.

**-ENDS-**

### **Contact information**

For more information, please contact:

Helene Bartos, PR Manager, New College of the Humanities,  
[helene.bartos@nchlondon.ac.uk](mailto:helene.bartos@nchlondon.ac.uk), +44 (0)207 2911 385

### **About [New College of the Humanities](http://nchlondon.ac.uk) (NCH) - [nchlondon.ac.uk](http://nchlondon.ac.uk)**

Based in the heart of London, New College of the Humanities offers unique, liberal arts-inspired curricula taught by inspirational academics through one-to-one tutorials and other small group teaching.

The College's undergraduates study a combined honours degree in subjects including Economics, English, History, Philosophy, and Politics & International Relations, or a single honours Law LLB, in addition to the College's rigorous liberal arts diploma. The NCH Diploma offers a rich mix of Core Courses including Applied Ethics, Critical Reasoning and Science Literacy, as well as LAUNCH, the College's unique professional development programme, which teaches students the skills and behaviours they need to succeed in the increasingly competitive graduate recruitment market. From September 2017, students will also be able to study for four [master's programmes](#), including the MA in Philosophy, the MSc in Global Politics, the MA in Historical Research & Public History, and the MA Economic Policy and Communication.

NCH's world-class professoriate includes luminaries such as Simon Blackburn, Sir Partha Dasgupta, Richard Dawkins, Daniel C Dennett, AC Grayling, Bettany Hughes, Lawrence Krauss, Steven Pinker, Sir Christopher Ricks, and Adrian Zuckerman, all of whom teach and contribute to the creation and development of the curriculum at the College.

Since its establishment in 2011, NCH has developed a reputation for delivering an unrivalled university experience. The College offers one of the best staff-to-student ratios in UK higher education, with students being offered at least 13 full contact hours per week on average, which compares to an average of 10.15 contact hours per week at Russell Group universities for humanities and social sciences students (HEPI, 2016).

NCH's first and second cohorts surpassed the national average degree classification by 10 percentage points, with over 30% of graduates achieving a first class degree, and 82% achieving a 2:1 or above.\* NCH graduate destinations have included Clifford Chance, Lambert Smith Hampton, Belarus Free Theatre, Deloitte, Porsche, Diageo and the British Council, and postgraduate study at top universities including the University of Oxford, UCL, and LSE.

For more information visit: [nchlondon.ac.uk](http://nchlondon.ac.uk)

\* In 2014, 20 per cent of students across the UK secured a first class degree, with 72 per cent achieving an upper second-class degree or above (HESA).