

2020/1 - PPLP4063B MODERN READINGS IN PHILOSOPHY

Spring Semester, Level 4 module
(Maximum 144 Students)

UCU: 20 Organiser: Dr Oskari Kuusela

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Examination with Coursework or Project

Timetable Slot:A1/*H2*D3\, B1/D1\F2\F2/E1\E1/B3/

Exam Paper(hrs):2 Exam Period:SPR-02

What am I? What kind of world am I in? How can I know about it? How should I live my life? In this module, you'll grapple with fundamental philosophical questions that have great personal significance for each of us. You'll focus on perspectives from the history of modern philosophy (ca. 1650 to 1950). You'll get to debate the ideas of key thinkers, which might include Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Wittgenstein, as well as other less well-known figures. This module will be suitable for you with or without prior experience of philosophy. It is a useful accompaniment to work in early modern history and English literature.

2020/1 - PPLP4064B REASONING AND LOGIC

Spring Semester, Level 4 module
(Maximum 72 Students)

UCU: 20 Organiser: Dr Fiona Roxburgh

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Examination with Coursework or Project

Timetable Slot:B1*E2/*C3, A1/D1/D1/H3\

Exam Paper(hrs):2 Exam Period:SPR-02

What do we mean when we say an argument is well-reasoned? What makes an argument either watertight or unreliable? We can start to answer these questions by distinguishing between, on the one hand, the individual claims that occur in an argument and, on the other hand, the relationships between those claims (which is the argument's logical structure). During this module you'll study philosophical reasoning, looking in close detail at the role played by logical structure such that we have an argument which has not only a true conclusion, but one which is firmly supported. As a result, you'll arm yourself with indispensable tools for rigorous philosophical thought, for identifying problems in the arguments you encounter, and for defending your views effectively within and beyond academic philosophy. You'll study what we call 'validity' in particular, gaining techniques for identifying valid arguments. As you discover how to break down the components of an argument, you'll sharpen your skills in argument-analysis and deepen your understanding of some key logical concepts, central to philosophy. In addition you'll master specific methods for examining validity in abstraction from natural language contexts. You'll strengthen these skills via a combination of seminars, lectures, workshops, and independent study. We'll focus heavily on practice exercises. The study of logic and reasoning will make you a better philosopher, whatever your specialism or area of interest. It will enable you to judge your own arguments and those of others more easily and effectively, and help you to organise your

thoughts and communicate your ideas more effectively.

2020/1 - PPLP4065B RADICAL PHILOSOPHY

Spring Semester, Level 4 module
(Maximum 72 Students)

UCU: 20 Organiser: Dr Davide Rizza
(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE
Module Type: Coursework
Timetable Slot:G1/*C1/*E2+, H2/H3\H3/

In this module, we study some of the most original thinkers of the twentieth century, in order to reflect in unconventional ways on the ideas of human association and community as well as evaluate the loss of autonomy produced by cultural invasion and the institutionalisation of values. The basic goal of Radical Philosophy is to present you with a constellation of styles of thinking and forms of criticism that will stimulate you to examine in a rigorous way several thought-provoking perspectives on the idea of social transformation.

2020/1 - PPLP4067B FOUNDATIONAL TEXTS OF THE GREAT CIVILISATIONS

Spring Semester, Level 4 module
(Maximum 72 Students)

UCU: 20 Organiser: Dr Philip Wilson
(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE
Module Type: Examination
Timetable Slot:F1H3D3/, A2\A2/G2\
Exam Paper(hrs):2 Exam Period:SPR-02

In this module you'll explore the ways in which human beings have, from time immemorial, used narratives and poetry to create their models of the universe, and to think about issues relating to mankind's place within it. You'll focus on ancient texts from a variety of major civilisations over the last four millennia, many of them still treated as living sources of wisdom and insight, spiritual guidance and moral vision. It has become customary in modern philosophy to privilege rational discourse, in prose, as the acceptable way of doing philosophy, and to imagine that to be human is to be rational. But is it irrational to explore our world and discover the deeper truths through narrative? Is that even non-rational enquiry? Might it actually be one of the key ways in which philosophy can reach and engage every human being? And might that be why all civilisations have stories and poetry as their foundational texts, not philosophical arguments? In this module you'll acquire a basic knowledge of some key texts (including Homer, key parts of the King James Bible and the Quran) that any citizen of the world should know.

2020/1 - PPLP5174B ETHICS FOR SECOND YEARS

Spring Semester, Level 5 module
(Maximum 999 Students)

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:F2/*C2/, E2+|E2/, H1-I1

Exam Paper(hrs):

Philosophy has much to say about the arts, and much to learn from them. In this module you will have a chance to explore some aspects of this relationship. Some issues that arise fall into what we would call aesthetics and the philosophy of art: we can ask about the value of art, aesthetic experience and judgement, artistic creativity, interpretation and representation, and we can investigate the views of many past thinkers on these matters. On the other hand, we can also use art to illuminate philosophy, and for this purpose we have chosen to focus primarily on cinema (while “literature and philosophy” investigates similar questions in connection with literature”). This module will focus on one or other of these two aspects of the encounter with beauty and the arts, but you may also wish to take the complementary module at level 6, in your third year, in order to cover both aspects of the subject.

2020/1 - PPLP5177B ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY FOR SECOND YEARS

Spring Semester, Level 5 module

(Maximum 36 Students)

UCU: 20

Organiser: Dr James Andow

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:E1, H3\D3/

How can we avoid environmental catastrophe? How can philosophy help? The relationship between human beings and the natural world is the basis of everything we are and yet we do not seem to have found a way to avoid destruction, degradation and potential catastrophe. In this module we will examine various ways in which philosophy can examine our relationship with the natural world and contribute to the fight to protect the planet. Topics may include the ethics of climate change; value theory and nature; human-animal relationships; the ways science, art and politics affect our relationships with the natural world. This module will cover a selection of these topics, and students may wish to continue the course by taking the complementary Level 6 module in their third year.

2020/1 - PPLP5180B EXISTENTIAL PHILOSOPHIES (SECOND YEAR MODULE)

Spring Semester, Level 5 module

(Maximum 45 Students)

UCU: 20

Organiser: Dr Thomas Greaves

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:B1/*G1/, E2/|E2+

How can we make sense of the vast and complex world we are plunged into at birth? What

happens when we become alienated from the world and its everyday meaning? If there is no absolute meaning assigned to human life by divine authority, does life have any meaning at all? Are we absolutely free to make sense of the world in any way we choose? Does death present an ultimate limit to human existence and freedom? Existential philosophers have grappled with these questions and in the process developed new ways of thinking about art, science, politics, divinity and every aspect of human life. Friedrich Nietzsche is one of the key founders of existential philosophy and his work began an important tradition that influenced thinkers such as Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir. This module will focus either on the explosive work of Nietzsche himself or on the existential tradition he inspired, so you may also wish to take the complementary module at level 6, in your third year, in order to cover both aspects of the subject.

2020/1 - PPLP6142B ETHICS FOR THIRD YEARS

Spring Semester, Level 6 module
(Maximum 100 Students)

UCU: 30 Organiser: Dr Oskari Kuusela
(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE
Module Type: Project
Timetable Slot: A2*G2/, C1/H3/

What is morality? And in what ways does it impinge on our lives, in deciding what to do? There are issues relating to ethics that are theoretical and meta-ethical, about what kind of judgements are being made and what is their basis in fact or in some realm of values; there are normative issues, about how, if at all, a theory can help to predict or decide what a person ought to do or which dispositions are commendable; and there are practical issues, about the real dilemmas of life and death, about fairness, love and compassion, as we face them in the world, and not just in imaginary "trolley-problems". To complete a course in ethics you would want to explore all these aspects of the subject, and during this module you'll engage with a selection of these, focusing either on the theoretical aspects, including attention to some major historical figures, or more on practical ethics.

2020/1 - PPLP6143B KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE AND PROOF FOR THIRD YEARS

Spring Semester, Level 6 module
(Maximum 18 Students)

UCU: 30 Organiser: Professor John Collins
(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE
Module Type: Project
Timetable Slot: B1G1\, B2, U

Epistemology examines what knowledge is. Science is concerned with the acquisition of secure knowledge, and philosophy of science considers what counts as science, what objects the scientist knows about, and what methods can be used to attain such knowledge; logic uses formal tools to investigate different forms of reasoning deployed to acquire knowledge. You will be given an opportunity to explore a selection of these areas of philosophy, through teaching informed by recent and ongoing research: which ones will be explored on this

occasion will be selected in the light of the lecturers' current research interests and the general appeal of these interests.

2020/1 - PPLP6144B PHILOSOPHY MEETS THE ARTS (THIRD YEAR MODULE)

Spring Semester, Level 6 module

(Maximum 18 Students)

UCU: 30

Organiser: Dr Rupert Read

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Project

Timetable Slot:F2/*C2/, H3/, H1-I1

Exam Paper(hrs):

Philosophy has much to say about the arts, and much to learn from them. In this module you will have a chance to explore some aspects of this relationship. Some issues that arise fall into what we would call aesthetics and the philosophy of art: we can ask about the value of art, aesthetic experience and judgement, artistic creativity, interpretation and representation, and we can investigate the views of many past thinkers on these matters. On the other hand, we can also use art to illuminate philosophy, and for this purpose we have chosen to focus primarily on cinema (while the module "Literature and Philosophy" investigates similar questions in connection with literature").

2020/1 - PPLP6145B ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY FOR THIRD YEARS

Spring Semester, Level 6 module

(Maximum 18 Students)

UCU: 30

Organiser: Dr James Andow

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Project

Timetable Slot:E1, E2\

How can we avoid environmental catastrophe? How can philosophy help? The relationship between human beings and the natural world is the basis of everything we are and yet we do not seem to have found a way to avoid destruction, degradation and potential catastrophe. In this module we will examine various ways in which philosophy can examine our relationship with the natural world and contribute to the fight to protect the planet. Topics may include the ethics of climate change; value theory and nature; human-animal relationships; the ways science, art and politics affect our relationships with the natural world. This module will cover a selection of these topics. It can be taken as a stand-alone module or, if you took the associated Level 5 module in your second year, you can add a new focus to your work in this area by taking this third year one as well.

2020/1 - PPLP6146B EXISTENTIAL PHILOSOPHIES (THIRD YEAR MODULE)

Spring Semester, Level 6 module

(Maximum 30 Students)

UCU: 30

Organiser: Dr Thomas Greaves

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Project

Timetable Slot: B1/*G1/, C3

How can we make sense of the vast and complex world we are plunged into at birth? What happens when we become alienated from the world and its everyday meaning? If there is no absolute meaning assigned to human life by divine authority, does life have any meaning at all? Are we absolutely free to make sense of the world in any way we choose? Does death present an ultimate limit to human existence and freedom? Existential philosophers have grappled with these questions and in the process developed new ways of thinking about art, science, politics, divinity and every aspect of human life. Friedrich Nietzsche is one of the key founders of existential philosophy and his work began an important tradition that influenced thinkers such as Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir. This module will focus either on the explosive work of Nietzsche himself or on the existential tradition he inspired, so if you have already taken the complementary module at level 5 in your second year, you can also take this in order to cover both aspects of the subject, or it can be taken as a stand-alone module.