

Course Outline (Higher Education)

School:	School of Arts
Course Title:	KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY: MODERN PHILOSOPHY FROM DESCARTES TO KANT
Course ID:	BAPHL3002
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	(SOSCI1002 or BAKIP1001 or PHILO1002 and at least 30 credit points at Intermediate (2000-2999) level from BAHIS or BAKIP or BAPHL or BASOC or HISOC or HISGL or INDSL or INDOL or PHILO or PHIGL or PHSGL or SOCIO or SOSCI subject-area)
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	(BAPHL2002 and PHILO2209 and PHILO3209)
ASCED Code:	091701

Description of the Course :

In the wake of the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century, philosophers in the modern period worked intensively on knowledge and scepticism. They examined the nature of thought and its ability to represent reality, to give us knowledge of the world, and knowledge of ourselves. As well as representing the world we also act in it, and these philosophers also examined the nature of agency, motivation, choice, and the explanation of action. All contemporary traditions in western philosophy have been shaped by these discussions. In this course we engage with a range of modern philosophers on issues of knowledge and reality. We also trace connections between their arguments and those of present day philosophers. It turns out that many of our present day debates over, for example, the fundamental character of physical reality, the roles of reason, experience, and emotion in knowledge, and the nature of mind, were anticipated and discussed by these thinkers.

Grade Scheme: Graded (HD, D, C, etc.)

Supplementary Assessment: Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the course but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above and submitted all major assessment tasks..

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	✓	■	■	■

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Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Demonstrate the capacity to fluently restate the views of modern philosophers and give sophisticated evaluations of them.
- K2.** Explain, differentiate, and classify modern views on at least three of the following philosophical issues: mind-body dualism, external world scepticism, the nature of perceptual knowledge, the role of ideas in thought and knowledge, the nature of causation and necessity, the character of physical reality, and the question of freedom and determinism.

Skills:

- S1.** Analyse and interpret written texts (original and translated) from a variety of European cultures in the modern period in order to clarify their structure, express their main arguments and conclusions, and highlight their complexities.
- S2.** Examine and evaluate arguments and conclusions of early modern philosophers, with careful reference to the contemporary significance of those arguments and conclusions.
- S3.** Prepare, refine, and express sophisticated written arguments concerning the correct interpretation of modern philosophical texts, following disciplinary norms for the construction of such arguments.
- S4.** Present and defend oral opinions on philosophical and interpretative questions arising from deep engagement with modern philosophical texts.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Recognise and reflect on the relations between different philosophical positions and traditions and their historical and philosophical contexts.
- A2.** Articulate and justify a philosophical position with clarity, depth, and sophistication in verbal or written form, demonstrating proficiency with the conventions and techniques of philosophical scholarship.

Course Content:

Students in this course will engage with the work of modern philosophers.

Topics may include:

- René Descartes
- Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia
- Margaret Cavendish
- John Locke
- George Berkeley
- Gottfried Leibniz
- Baruch Spinoza
- David Hume
- Thomas Reid
- Immanuel Kant.

Values:

- V1.** Develop the capacity to see philosophical problems within their historical contexts
- V2.** Recognise and respect the variety of perspectives on and critical approaches to philosophical positions
- V3.** Challenge commonly held views about the human self or subject, knowledge and knowing

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- V4. Develop an awareness of the continuing relevance of Modern philosophy to debates in modern Western culture
- V5. Respect the procedures of disciplined philosophical argumentation.

Graduate Attributes:

FedUni graduate attributes statement. To have graduates with knowledge, skills and competence that enable them to stand out as critical, creative and enquiring learners who are capable, flexible and work ready, and responsible, ethical and engaged citizens.

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Knowledge, skills and competence	Students develop a deep understanding of how concepts regarding reality and knowledge are informed by philosophical theories, and are constructed, contested, and articulated in different contexts	High
Critical, creative and enquiring learners	Students refine their attitudes of inquiry into the constructions of knowledge and reality, and develop advanced abilities in critically interrogating texts and arguments	High
Capable, flexible and work ready	Students refine communication and skills and their critical awareness regarding knowledge construction. They practise sophisticated critical and creative reading and thinking skills transferable to a range of study, employment, and personal contexts	Medium
Responsible, ethical and engaged citizens	Students reflect on and gain respect for differing conceptual and epistemological frameworks and their implications for societal norms regarding knowledge and truth claims	Low

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, S1, S3, A1, A2	Demonstrate advanced critical understanding of key concepts, arguments and texts	Comprehension exercise	30-40%
K1, K2, S1, S2, S3, A1, A2	Analysis, research, and argument. Develop and defend a sophisticated position on a contested philosophical topic by marshalling support, comparing competing viewpoints, and drawing conclusions	Research essay	35-45%
K1, S1, S2, S4, A1, A2	Make knowledgeable contributions to course activities and discussion. Discuss course texts and ideas in a clear and coherent manner. Orally present ideas and arguments showing an advanced understanding of one course topic selected in consultation with the course coordinator. Engage respectfully with other students	Participation, contribution, and oral presentation	20-30%

Adopted Reference Style:

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Chicago