

Course Outline

School / Portfolio: Faculty of Education and Arts

Course Title: MODERN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: PHILO3209

Credit Points: 15.00

Prerequisite(s): (PHILO1002 or equivalent AND One 2000 Level Philosophy Course)

Co-requisite(s): Nil

Exclusion(s): (PHILO2209)

ASCED Code: 091701

Program Level:

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

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Appraise the key arguments proposed by a select group of important European philosophers of the modern period.
- K2.** Compare individual thinkers in modern European philosophy in relation to their arguments concerning the subject or self and its interactions with and knowledge of the world.
- K3.** Evaluate the work of individual thinkers in relation to their predecessors and successors in the history of modern European philosophy.
- K4.** Examine commonly held assumptions about the subject or self and knowledge and knowing.

Skills:

- S1.** Demonstrate expertise in critical textual analysis and exegesis.
- S2.** Articulate an informed perspective.
- S3.** Analyse, evaluate and critically engage expertly with philosophical positions.
- S4.** Undertake independent research to deepen critical understanding of Modern European philosophical traditions and texts.
- S5.** Design research questions, drawing on critical understanding of the core philosophical problematics driving arguments in Modern European philosophy.

Application of knowledge and skills:

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- A1.** Recognise and reflect on the relations between different philosophical positions and traditions and their historical and philosophical contexts.
- Articulate and justify a philosophical position in a clear and well-structured manner in verbal or
- A2.** written form, demonstrating mastery of the conventions and techniques of philosophical scholarship.

Course Content:

This course functions as a critical examination of the history of European philosophical ideas of the modern period (i.e., from Descartes up until the twentieth century). Beginning with an analysis of Descartes' famous statement 'I think, therefore I am', the course will map the theory of the subject or 'I' as being the central issue in Western philosophy from the 17th century onwards, specifically with regards to our interactions with and knowledge of the world. Accordingly, the course will examine different theorisations of the subject and its interactions with external objects, other subjects, nature, and God, from Descartes onwards. Thinkers studied will include: René Descartes, Baruch Spinoza, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, G.W.F. Hegel, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Sigmund Freud. The course will conclude with a consideration of how these issues have informed twentieth century philosophy.

Values and Graduate Attributes:

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 and knowledge and knowing.
- V4.** Develop an awareness of the continuing relevance of Modern European philosophy to debates in modern Western culture.
- V5.** Respect other cultural traditions.
- V6.** Respect the procedures of disciplined philosophical argumentation.

Graduate Attributes:

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Continuous Learning	Students will develop skills in comprehension, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and creative thinking	High
Self Reliance	Students will build on their skills in continuous learning, personal organisation, communication, independent thinking and research, initiative, and creativity.	High
Engaged Citizenship	Students will develop respect for and an informed perspective regarding the conceptual frameworks and traditions of Modern European philosophy	Medium
Social Responsibility	Students reflect on and gain respect for differing conceptual and epistemological frameworks and their implications for societal discussions of knowledge and truth claims.	Medium

Learning Task and Assessment:

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Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, S1, S2,	Demonstrate critical understanding of key concepts, arguments and texts in response to self and peer developed short answer questions.	Reading & Comprehension Exercise	25-35%
K1, K2, K4, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, A1, A2	Analysis, research and argument. Identify a philosophical research problem in consultation with their tutor. Develop and defend a position regarding this research problem by marshalling support, comparing competing viewpoints and drawing conclusions.	Research Essay	35-45%
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, S3, S4, A1, A2	Present ideas and arguments pertinent to one course topic.	Presentation	10-15%
K1, K2, K4, S1, S2, S3, S4, A2	Make informed contributions to course activities and discussion; demonstrate leadership and expertise in the discussion of course texts and ideas.	Participation & Contribution	5-10%

Adopted Reference Style:

Chicago