

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTFC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: Combined Studies

FHEQ Level: 4

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy

Course Code: PHL 4100

Course Leader: James Earl

Student Engagement Hours: **120**

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

Semester: Fall or Spring or Summer

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits

3 US credits

Course Description:

This course introduces students to discipline of philosophy. It examines various branches of philosophy including logic, epistemology, ontology, ethics, political and religious philosophy. It takes a topic-based rather than historical approach, and looks at set of problems such as the mind-body problem, empiricism versus rationalism, and subjectivism versus naturalism. To this end, various important Western philosophers will be considered including Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant & Russell.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

- to acquire a knowledge of the way in which philosophy as a discipline is structured into various areas;
- to feel confident in using the terminology of the discipline;
- to acquire a knowledge of traditional philosophical problems;
- to acquire a knowledge of some key figures in the history of Western philosophy;
- to develop an understanding of the processes of philosophical analysis;
- to develop their ability to think in an analytic and critical way, and be able to apply this approach to both philosophical and social questions.

Programme Outcomes :

4A(i,); 4B(iii); 4C(i,iii); 4D(i,iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

Students should be able to:

- reflect on philosophical problems presented and be able to suggest possible strategies for tackling them.
- have developed a broad understanding of some of the basic concepts found in Western philosophy
- use some of the basic conceptual vocabulary of philosophy appropriately.
- to write clearly using appropriate levels of academic presentation including proper referencing.

Indicative Content:

- Logic
- Epistemology
- Ontology
- Political philosophy
- Religious philosophy
- Non western philosophical frameworks

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on 28 June 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

Course meetings consist of highly interactive conversations about philosophical topics, where the tutor presents a problem and guides the class discussion. In-class exercises are combined with small homework tasks around specific philosophical problems so students feel a constant engagement with the process of philosophical analysis.

Bibliography:**Indicative Text(s):**

Hospers, J. (1997). An Introduction to Philosophical Analysis. London: Routledge,

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus
