

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

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

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| Academic School/Department: | Communications, Arts and Social Sciences |
| Programme: | Combined Studies |
| FHEQ Level: | 5 |
| Course Title: | Modern European Mind |
| Course Code: | PHL 5400 |
| Course Leader: | James Earl |
| Student Engagement Hours: | 120 |
| Lectures: | 22.5 |
| Seminar / Tutorials: | 22.5 |
| Independent / Guided Learning : | 75 |
| Semester: | Fall or Spring |
| Credits: | 12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits |

Course Description:

This Course examines the development of the European philosophical tradition from the Pre-Modern period, through the Modern Period, and considers some Contemporary philosophical trends. Students will study original texts from thinkers as diverse as Thomas a Kempis, Aquinas, Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Wittgenstein, Sartre, Barthes, Foucault and Butler. Philosophical pairs such as rationalism and empiricism, idealism and materialism, and structuralism and poststructuralism will be examined. The influence of science and psychology on the 'modern European mind' will also be reviewed.

Prerequisites: ARW 4195

Aims and Objectives:

- to acquire a detailed knowledge of some seminal themes in the Western philosophical tradition, and their development;
- to acquire a detailed knowledge of some key figures in the history of Western philosophy;
- to feel confident in a detailed use of the terminology of the discipline;
- to extend an understanding of the processes of philosophical analysis;

- to extend an ability to think in an analytic and critical way, and be able to apply this approach to both philosophical and social questions.

Programme Outcomes :

5A(i,ii,iii); 5B(iii,iii); 5C(i,iii); 5D(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:

- make a detailed critical assessment of a modern philosopher or philosophical tradition
- use a detailed conceptual vocabulary appropriately
- write clearly using appropriate levels of academic presentation including proper referencing.
- apply their knowledge of the Western philosophical tradition to understand the intellectual context and history of contemporary social and ethical issues.

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. One session each week is devoted to the critical examination of a seminal text, whereas the other session is a presentation of the thematic material.

Bibliography:

Indicative Text(s):

Kenny, A., (2010). A New History of Western Philosophy. Oxford; OUP

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

