

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	CASS
Programme:	
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	History of Western Philosophy I
Course Code:	PHL 5810
Course Leader:	Rosanna Graziani (Rome)
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	45
Seminar / Tutorials:	
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Spring/Summer/Fall
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

ITALIAN STUDY CENTRES ONLY. Western philosophy finds its beginning with the Greeks, and the thinking of ancient Greece continues to determine western thought today. This course introduces students to the history of Greek philosophy, from the pre-Socratics to the end of Ancient philosophy and the beginning of the Middle Ages. Major thinkers addressed will include: Heraclitus, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Augustine. The philosophers will be studied as much as possible in their cultural, social and political context to establish a link between them and the history of Western thought as a whole.

Prerequisites:

Aims and Objectives:

This course aims to enable students to become conversant with the Socratic, Platonic, and Aristotelian ways of thinking that have shaped Western thought to the present day. The fundamental insights of Plato and Aristotle should provide students with a solid foundation for further philosophical study in their enduring influence on thinkers of subsequent generations.

Programme Outcomes:

This is a stand alone course not associated with a degree programme.

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate detailed knowledge of key issues, theories, figures, and texts of ancient philosophy.
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of some of the core problems of ancient philosophy and of their strengths and weaknesses
- Demonstrate an ability to assess the most significant attempts to solve some of the core problems of ancient philosophy

Indicative Content:

- Mythology vs. philosophy
- Mystery Religions and Philosophy: Pythagoras and the Pythagoric School
- Democritus
- The Sophists
- Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
- Cynics and Skeptics
- The rise of Christianity: Philosophy in Rome

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/>

Teaching Methodology:

The classes consist of lectures, text interpretation, and class discussion of key issues, with student-led presentation of key ideas. Students will need to prepare for class by reading specified texts in order to be able to carry out the critical thinking necessary to interpret the philosophical texts and to understand today's ethical, cultural and political debates which refer to them. The classes will draw on the varying cultural backgrounds of the students to debate and analyze philosophical concepts from different points of view towards a critical understanding of the texts.

