

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	School of Liberal Arts
Programme:	Liberal Arts Core
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Introduction to Philosophy
Course Code:	PHL 4100
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
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:

A2, A3, A4, A6, B7, B8

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful 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 University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

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.

Indicative Text(s):

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

Web Sites

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Programme Outcomes to reflect new Liberal Arts programme	February 2018	
Annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	