

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: School of Liberal Arts

Programme: Liberal Arts Core

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Modern European Mind

Course Code: PHL 5400

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 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:

GEP 4180 or 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:

A3, A6

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

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful 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 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. 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.

Indicative Text(s):

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

Journals

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	