

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	General Education
<b>Programme:</b>	Combined Studies
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	Modern European Mind
<b>Course Code:</b>	PHL 5815
<b>Course Leader:</b>	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:**

ITALIAN STUDY CENTRES ONLY 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 post-structuralism will be examined. The influence of science and psychology on the 'modern European mind' will also be reviewed. Note: this course is cross-referenced against PHL 5400

**Prerequisites:** GEP 4180

**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*

