

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

<b>Academic School / Department:</b>	School of Liberal Arts
<b>Programme:</b>	Liberal Arts Core
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	Introduction to Philosophy
<b>Course Code:</b>	PHL 4100

<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75

<b>Credits:</b>	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	