

# FP037-30 Philosophy

**20/21**

**Department**

Warwick Foundation Studies

**Level**

Foundation

**Module leader**

Amy Stickels

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

25 weeks

**Assessment**

60% coursework, 40% exam

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

FP037-30 Philosophy

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

1. To provide a broad, introductory, critical overview of the core traditions in Philosophy
2. To familiarise students with a range of key philosophers, their written works and ideas
3. To debate key areas of philosophical argument and their application in a real-world context.
4. To introduce students to the language and logic associated with arguing philosophically.
5. To provide a range of opportunities to develop a variety of skills including critical thinking, essay writing, analysis and evaluation that will enable students to engage successfully in philosophical dialogue.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. Introduction to Philosophy – the construction, type and forms of philosophical arguments

- including a posteriori/ a priori, inductive/ deductive, analytic/ synthetic distinctions.
2. Moral Philosophy – where human concepts of goodness originate from and what makes an action “good”. Normative ethics - Teleological/ deontological/ value based systems – Application of these methods to real life issues and evaluation of the effectiveness of them.
  3. Epistemology – debates about what knowledge is and how do we ‘know’ anything. Empiricism/ rationalism debates – analysis and evaluation of the contributions of key scholars e.g. Plato/ Aristotle and those outside the Western tradition to this debate.
  4. Metaphysics– Why is there something and not nothing? Focusing on science vs religion debates of cosmology. Freewill vs determinism – application and implications of concepts e.g. psychological determinism to our understanding of ethics/ law/ real life scenarios. Discussions around mind-body problem.

Arguments to be drawn from a variety of backgrounds including Confucianism, Advaita Vedanta (Indian Philosophy), Islamic Philosophy (e.g. Kalam Cosmological argument) as well work of modern scholars including Ted Honderich. Focus will also be given to female scholars e.g. Martha Nussbaum, Philippa Foot, Hannah Arendt.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Identify and explain clearly the key problems and ideas in a range of areas of philosophy.
- Apply different philosopher’s ideas and theories to a variety of areas of debate in philosophy.
- Critically evaluate the ideas of a range of different philosophers in the history of the core traditions in Philosophy.
- Analyse and evaluate arguments appropriately.
- Formulate their own critical, reasoned responses to a variety of different debates in philosophy.

## Indicative reading list

Baggini J (2018) How the World Thinks. Granta

Blackburn S (2001) Being Good: An Introduction to Ethics OUP

Blackburn S (1999) Think: a compelling introduction to Philosophy OUP

Guttenplan S (2003) Reading Philosophy: Selected texts with method for beginners Blackwell

Grayling AC (1998) Philosophy: A Guide Through the Subject OUP

Mackie JL (1977) Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong Penguin

Nagel J (2014) Knowledge: A Very Short Introduction OUP

Nagel T (2004) What does it all Mean? OUP

Pojman L (2002) Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong Wadsworth/Thomson Learning

Singer P ed (1994) Ethics OUP

Warburton N (2013) Philosophy: The Basics Routledge

Warburton N (2017) Thinking from A-Z 3rd edition Routledge

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## International

There will be discussion of ethical issues from an international perspective. Students will be asked to engage with philosophers and theories from different traditions e.g. Confucianism or Advaita where appropriate and to compare/ contrast their approaches. The module will be theme based and so it will be possible to bring in contributions from non-Western Philosophy

### **Subject specific skills**

To develop students use of analysis to interpret and critique existing philosophical debates and draw their own conclusions from the examination of primary and secondary sources.

### **Transferable skills**

Critical reading  
Critical Thinking  
Debating  
Written Communication Skills

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## **Study**

### **Study time**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Required</b>
Seminars	75 sessions of 1 hour (25%)
Tutorials	4 sessions of 30 minutes (1%)
Online learning (independent)	27 sessions of 1 hour (9%)
Private study	154 hours (51%)
Assessment	42 hours (14%)
Total	300 hours

### **Private study description**

Private Study.

### **Costs**

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## **Assessment**

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### **Assessment group D**

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>
1,200 word essay	30%	15 hours
Discursive essay looking at an area of debate in Philosophy which will assess student's ability to evaluate different perspectives/ concepts, explain key ideas clearly and come to their own reasoned conclusion.		
Forum Debate	10%	2 hours
Take part in moodle forum debates on issues within Philosophy. Designed to assess student's ability to respond critically to others ideas and formulate their own opinions.		
Philosophy VLOG	20%	10 hours
Submission of 5 minute VLOG. Students will be assessed on their ability to identify and explain a philosophical issue and their personal response to it		
Online Examination	40%	15 hours
Examination assessing the learning of all areas of the Philosophy module throughout the year.		

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

## **Feedback on assessment**

Written comments via tabula; tutorials for students who wish to have further guidance.

[Past exam papers for FP037](#)

## **Availability**

### **Courses**

This module is Core for:

- FIOE Warwick International Foundation Programme
  - Year 1 of FP25 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Arts and Humanities
  - Year 1 of FP23 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Social Sciences