

# PH354-15 Aristotle

**21/22**

**Department**

Philosophy

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Thomas Crowther

**Credit value**

15

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

PH354-15 Aristotle

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

To introduce students to the logical, metaphysical and ethical theories of Aristotle.

### 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.

The course will cover both the theoretical and practical philosophy of Aristotle. We will discuss Aristotle's views about different ways in which the world can be understood, his theory of change, his theory of the soul, and then move on to Aristotle's ethics. In particular, we will attempt to work out what Aristotle thought the best life for human beings was, in the light of both textual and philosophical problems.

Week 1. Lectures 1 & 2: An Introduction to the Module

Week 2. Lectures 3 & 4: Aristotle's 'Four Causes' Introduced

Week 3: Lectures 5 & 6: The Nature of Final Cause

Week 4: Lectures 7 & 8: Aristotle on 'Actuality' and 'Potentiality'

Week 5: Lectures 9 & 10: Aristotle on Change

Week 6: No lecture

Week 7: Lectures 11 & 12: An introduction to Aristotle on the Soul

Week 8: Lectures 13 & 14: A Puzzle about Aristotle on the Soul

Week 9: Lectures 15 & 16: Aristotle's The Function Argument

Week 10: Lectures 17 & 18: A Puzzle about Aristotle on Eudaimonia

## **Learning outcomes**

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

- Subject knowledge and understanding: students should be able to understand and expound the central elements of Aristotle's philosophy.
- Key skills: students should be able to communicate clearly and substantively in speech and in writing on the questions addressed in the module.
- Cognitive skills: students should be able to isolate the important claims within both the primary texts and the secondary literature, understand the structure of arguments, test views for strengths and weaknesses, make pertinent use of examples, and compare the substance of views consistently.
- Subject-specific skills: students should be able to pursue and organize philosophical research using a range of sources (print and electronic media), documenting research carefully, and showing the ability to engage independently in philosophical debate.

## **Indicative reading list**

J. L. Ackrill (1987) *A New Aristotle Reader*. Oxford, O.U.P. (A translation and selection of the most important Aristotelian texts we will be studying).

C. Shields (2014) *Aristotle* (2nd. ed.) London, Routledge. The single most important introductory secondary source for this module.

J. Lear (1988) *Aristotle: The Desire to Understand*. Cambridge, C.U.P. Excellent, both as a commentary on Aristotle and as a work of philosophy.

## **Subject specific skills**

- (i) The capacity to read classic works of Aristotle (specifically, the *Physics*, the *De Anima* and the *Nicomachean Ethics*) and to understand key ideas in those texts.
- (ii) The capacity to explain key arguments found in classic philosophical works by Aristotle.
- (iii) To develop an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of these arguments, and to be able to communicate these strengths and weaknesses in written and oral work.
- (iv) To work effectively with peers in group-oriented work on Aristotle, and to communicate and think about Aristotle in a seminar environment

## **Transferable skills**

- (i) To acquire the capacity to read demanding material effectively and critically.
- (ii) To develop the capacity to explain demanding ideas and arguments clearly, briefly and

accurately.

(iii) To think creatively about problems by deploying the capacity for clear thinking and reasoning

(iv) To work collaboratively and sensitively with others in a seminar environment, and to develop the self-confidence to communicate effectively in a group environment.

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (69%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (31%)
Total	26 hours

### Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

### 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.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

### Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time
1000 word essay	20%	
1000 word essay		
2500 word essay	80%	

### Feedback on assessment

Feedback on essays will be provided on the essay feedback form, addressing standard areas of evaluation and individual content.

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# Availability

## Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UHIA-V1V8 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 3 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 4 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 4 of UPHA-VL79 BA in Philosophy with Psychology (with Intercalated year)
- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Option list B for:

- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- UMAA-GV18 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)

This module is Option list E for:

- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law

- Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law