

FP037-30 Philosophy

22/23

Department

Warwick Foundation Studies

Level

Foundation

Module leader

Amy Stickels

Credit value

30

Assessment

60% coursework, 40% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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 key philosophical arguments in a variety of areas of Philosophy
- Apply different philosopher’s ideas and theories to a variety of areas of debate in Philosophy.
- Analyse and critically evaluate Philosophical theories and arguments.
- Make use of philosophical terminology correctly.
- Formulate critical, reasoned, personal 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

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	25 sessions of 1 hour (25%)
Seminars	75 sessions of 1 hour (75%)
Tutorials	(0%)
Online learning (independent)	(0%)
Total	100 hours

Private study description

Private Study - preparatory reading, homework.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D1

	Weighting	Study time
1,500 word essay	30%	15 hours

Weighting

Study time

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%

5 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%

15 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%

20 hours

Examination assessing the learning of all areas of the Philosophy module throughout the year.

~Platforms - AEP

- 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