

# PH143-15 Existence, Experience, History: Key Topics in Continental Philosophy

**22/23**

**Department**

Philosophy

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 1

**Module leader**

Tobias Keiling

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

9 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

PH143 - Existence, Experience, History: Key Topics in Continental Philosophy

### Module aims

The aim of the module is to introduce students to key topics in post-Kantian continental philosophy. Texts by central figures in this tradition will be analysed and discussed in relation to specific philosophical problems and themes. These problems and themes include

- the nature of human existence and experience,
- the question of what it means to be free,
- the character of truth and knowledge,
- historical concepts such as the Enlightenment and Humanism,
- nature in the age of climate change.

The work of philosophers who can be studied at honours level will be introduced. These authors

include Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Arendt, and Foucault.

## **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.

Week 1: What is (or was) the Enlightenment? (Kant, Foucault)

Week 2: Freedom beyond reason: the problem of evil (Schelling, Arendt)

Week 3: No-one is one without the other: recognition and dialectic (Hegel)

Week 4: The world and the fable: on the contingency of knowing (Nietzsche, Foucault)

Week 5: Something to hold on to: the return of the transcendental (Husserl)

Week 7: Freedom beyond the human: death and existence (Heidegger, Sartre)

Week 8: Phenomenology of the (gendered) body (Merleau-Ponty)

Week 9: Ethics in face of the other: of humans, gods, and animals (Levinas, Derrida)

Week 10: The return of nature: philosophy in the Anthropocene (Chakrabarty)

## **Learning outcomes**

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

- be familiar with many of the main philosophical approaches and concerns associated with post-Kantian continental philosophy.
- be able to engage in a close, critical reading of key texts in this philosophical tradition,
- to present and discuss in an informed way the main ideas and problems presented in these texts.
- have a systematic knowledge and understanding of many of the key topics associated with continental philosophy as discussed in some of the classic texts associated with this philosophical tradition.
- on this basis, students should also be able to understand how the ideas and arguments they encounter differ and to offer an independent critical assessment of them.

## **Indicative reading list**

Readings will include short excerpts from key figures in post-Kantian continental philosophy selected for each week's theme. These readings from primary texts will be accompanied by introductory study material and/or readings from introductory secondary literature. All readings will be made available in digital form.

## **Subject specific skills**

The ability

- (a) to understand the characteristic features and aims of post-Kantian 'continental' philosophy;
- (b) to recognise the different forms taken by certain recurrent topics and concepts (freedom, experience, knowledge, critique etc.) in different post-Kantian philosophers;
- (c) to analyse and critically evaluate the different theories and arguments connected with the topics presented, and to come to an independent assessment of their merits;
- (d) the ability to pursue independent philosophical research.

## Transferable skills

The ability

- (a) to analyse, evaluate, critique and apply complex information gathered from reading, reflection, reasoning or communication;
  - (b) to discuss the issues raised by their close reading in speech and in writing
  - (c) communicate information (verbally and in written form) to people both expert and non-expert in the field;
  - (d) the ability to effectively manage schedules and deadlines.
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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (12%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	124 hours (83%)
Total	150 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%	
2500 word essay	80%	

### Feedback on assessment

Feedback on essays will be provided via Tabula, addressing standard areas of evaluation and individual content.

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- UIPA-V5L8 Undergraduate Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 1 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 1 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 1 of UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
- Year 1 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- UPHA-V700 Undergraduate Philosophy
  - Year 1 of V700 Philosophy
  - Year 1 of V700 Philosophy
- Year 1 of UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 1 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 1 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 1 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)

This module is Option list B for:

- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 1 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 1 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 1 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy

This module is Option list C for:

- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 1 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 1 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 1 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 1 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy