

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

23/24

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

Description

Introductory description

PH143 - Key Topics in Continental Philosophy

Module aims

The aim of the module is to introduce students to key topics and thinkers in 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 Enlightenment and the project of Critical philosophy;
- evil, choice, and autonomy;
- notions of human freedom;
- recognition and social critique;
- embodiment, sex, and gender;
- truth and certainty;
- 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, 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: Enlightenment (Kant, Foucault)

Week 2: Evil (Schelling, Arendt)

Week 3: Recognition (Hegel)

Week 4: Truth, genealogy, critique (Nietzsche)

Week 5: Phenomenology and the problem of solipsism (Husserl)

Week 7: Existentialism and Humanism (Heidegger, Sartre)

Week 8: Body, sex, gender (Merleau-Ponty, Butler)

Week 9: Humans and other animals (Levinas, Derrida)

Week 10: Philosophy in the Anthropocene (Latour, 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 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.

Subject specific skills

The ability

- (a) to understand the characteristic features and aims of continental philosophy;
- (b) to recognise the different forms taken by certain recurrent topics and concepts (freedom, experience, knowledge, critique etc.) in different continental 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.

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 A4

	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.

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 UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
- 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
- Year 1 of UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics
- 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 Unusual option for:

- Year 1 of UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
- 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 A for:

- 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