

PH255-15 PPE: Interdisciplinary Topics

23/24

Department

Philosophy

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Laura Gelhaus

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The topic of food interacts profoundly with the three disciplines we study in PPE. Is eating animals ethical? What role do national governments play in protecting 'authentic' food? Who benefits from 'fair trade' labels? Often, we cannot answer important questions pertaining to food by only considering one discipline, either. For instance, the question of dairy substitutes raises political, economic, and philosophical questions such as: what can be defined as milk and how are substitute products regulated? What shapes consumers' preferences in buying dairy replacements - and should they?

This module introduces students to questions spanning the disciplines of philosophy, politics, and economics, and provides insight into how these disciplines can help illuminate the topic of food. It will also encourage students to bridge their knowledge in the three disciplines to arrive at an interdisciplinary perspective.

This module has been designed in co-creation with a group of eight PPE students, which we hope makes for an even more exciting module.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Drawing on a wide range of intellectual traditions across the social sciences, the module aims to

expose students to the assumptions and methodologies that underpin each of the three PPE disciplines, which will be explored through the topic of food. The module aims to help you integrate the discipline-specific foundations covered in the first year into an interdisciplinary approach so that you will be able to answer relevant questions on the PPE of food. The module also provides an introduction to and/or complements the PPE-specific modules in Principles in Political Economy covered in the final year.

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 module will discuss the issue of food in various settings, from the global food regime to your plate.

The first week of the module will introduce the main aspects of the module, such as the topics and assessments. The final lecture of the module will take place as a module conference, in which students are encouraged to present their preliminary research project and receive valuable feedback on their plans.

Indicative weekly schedule. Please note that this may change.

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: The global food system: a fair trade?

Week 3: Inequality and malnutrition: built into our global food system?

Week 4: It's not a small world: global versus local foods

Week 5: Meals as art

Week 7: Food and the body

Week 8: Authentic foods between the nation state and global markets

Week 9: Demystifying veganism

Week 10: Module conference

Learning outcomes

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

- 1. Demonstrate and apply an understanding of interdisciplinary research in PPE
- 2. Apply critical thinking and reasoning skills such as making inferences and assessing limitations of knowledge claims
- 3. Represent and critically respond to multiple points of view through effective persuasive writing
- 4. Explain and assess core concepts and ideas in the PPE study of food
- 5. Demonstrate data literacy applied to the PPE research of food

Indicative reading list

The reading list for this module will be published closer to the module's first lecture.

Some books which indicate core themes of the module are:

Alkon, A. & Agyeman, J. (eds) 2011. Cultivating food justice: race, class, and sustainability.

Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.

Clapp, J. 2012. Food. Cambridge: Polity.

Hansen, H. 2013. Food Economics. Abingdon: Routledge. Kaplan, D. 2012. The Philosophy of Food. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Research element

One of the assessments is a student research paper and we are considering the publication of the best research papers.

Interdisciplinary

This is an interdisciplinary module that explores issues at the intersection of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

Subject specific skills

- Knowledge and understanding of how the three disciplines relate
- Application of PPE to real world problems
- Data Literacy
- Normative Analysis
- Policy Analysis
- Critical Thinking

Transferable skills

- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Sustainability
- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Ethical Values

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	133 hours (89%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Private study devoted to critically engaging with readings and other course material as well as independent research for assessments or seminar tasks.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

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

Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time
Module Engagement	5%	
Assessed active engagement with the module content. Students will be able to demonstrate their active engagement by collecting points for engaging with different module activities throughout the term. Students can either pass (100%) or fail (0%) this assessment.		
Research Proposal	15%	
Research proposal on any of the topics discussed in the module. In this proposal, you are intended to engage with the relevant academic literature to propose an independent research question and delineate a feasible strategy to answer the question. You may, but are not bound to, use this proposal and the feedback you receive to inform your research paper.		
Research Paper	80%	
Assessed independent research paper on a topic discussed in the module, for which students select their own research question and carry out the appropriate research to answer it. The research project may build on insights gained in completing the research proposal.		

Assessment group R

	Weighting	Study time
Research Paper	100%	
Assessed independent research paper on a topic discussed in the module, for which students select their own research question and carry out the appropriate research to answer it. The research project may build on insights gained in completing the research proposal.		

Feedback on assessment

The primary mode of feedback will be individual, written feedback on assessments. Students can also seek additional feedback in Advice and Feedback Hours.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- 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)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)

This module is Unusual option for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 2 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - 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)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)

This module is Option list C for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)

- Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list D for:

- UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V1V5 History and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of V1V5 History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V8 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
 - Year 2 of V1V7 History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
 - Year 3 of V1V7 History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 2 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)