

PH9A5-30 20th Century French Philosophy

24/25

Department

Philosophy

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Andrew Huddleston

Credit value

30

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module introduces three of the most important thinkers in 20th Cent. French Philosophy: Simone de Beauvoir, Michel Foucault, and Jacques Derrida. Through these thinkers, we will explore several of the main currents in 20th Century French Philosophy across different philosophical areas, from social and political philosophy to more theoretical issues about self-consciousness, metaphysics and language.

Module aims

This module aims (a) to provide students with a representative sample of works in 20th Cent. French Philosophy, (b) to provide them with an understanding of how such work engages with other philosophical interlocutors (for example, Hegel, Nietzsche, Heidegger); (c) to get them to think clearly and critically about the positions espoused; and (d) to encourage them to develop their own original philosophical arguments and research projects. No prior knowledge of 20th Cent. French thought is required.

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.

Weeks 1-3: Simone de Beauvoir (key texts: *Ethics of Ambiguity*, excerpts from *The Second Sex* and *She Came to Stay*; key topics: self-consciousness, self-formation, and gender.)

Weeks 4-6: Michel Foucault (key texts: 'Nietzsche, Genealogy, History'; *Discipline and Punish*; *History of Sexuality*, Vol. I; key topics: Genealogy, power, discipline, sexuality)

Weeks 7-9: Jacques Derrida (key texts: *Différance*, *The Animal That Therefore I Am*, *Force of Law*; key topics: *différance*, deconstruction, justice, democracy)

Learning outcomes

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

- Understand and write critically on some of the major figures of the twentieth-century French tradition in philosophy.
- The ability to expound and explain difficult modern philosophical texts in written form.
- Understand and interpret certain texts that are central to modern Continental philosophy, and relate them to on-going philosophical debates.
- Understand a significant portion of the modern Continental philosophical landscape.
- The ability to expound and explain difficult modern philosophical texts in oral form.

Indicative reading list

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

Jacques Derrida, *Différance*, *The Animal That Therefore I Am*, *Spectres of Marx*, *Force of Law*

Michel Foucault, 'Nietzsche, Genealogy, History'

Subject specific skills

Students will acquire an in-depth knowledge of 20th Cent. French Philosophy.

Students will acquire a familiarity with and develop a critical assessment of key figures in post-Kantian European philosophy.

Students will acquire greater skill in explaining and assessing complex philosophical positions.

Transferable skills

Communicate clearly and substantively at an advanced level both in speech and in writing on the main issues addressed in the module.

Provide a clear analysis of complex arguments and consistently compare the substance of different philosophical views.

Properly evaluate conflicting interpretations and critically engage with them.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	10 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Seminars	10 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Private study	280 hours (93%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Private study and essay preparation

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A5

	Weighting	Study time
5000 word essay	100%	

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback on essays

Availability

Courses

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 1 of TPHA-V7P2 Postgraduate Taught Continental Philosophy

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of TPHA-V7PM Postgraduate Taught Philosophy

- TPHA-V7PN Postgraduate Taught Philosophy and the Arts
 - Year 1 of V7PN Philosophy and the Arts
 - Year 2 of V7PN Philosophy and the Arts

This module is Option list E for:

- Year 1 of TPHA-V7PM Postgraduate Taught Philosophy