

PH150-15 World Philosophies

26/27

Department

Philosophy

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Curie Virag

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module offers an introduction to some of the major world philosophies, including those found in Chinese, Indian, Greco-Roman and Buddhist traditions. We will address the ways in which different philosophical traditions confronted basic questions such as: What is the good life and how can we achieve it? How can we come to know and experience the world? What makes humans human? What is the order of reality and how does it impinge on human life? How are mind, body, emotion, and understanding conceptualized, and with what implications for agency and the normative order? We will also consider some metaphilosophical issues raised by the plurality of philosophical traditions as well as the methodological question of how we might bring different philosophical traditions – with their (often) different premises, concerns, and modes of inquiry – into engagement with one another.

Module aims

The module aims to introduce students to several major world philosophies and to provide resources for understanding them as philosophical traditions in their own right, as well as for bringing them into meaningful engagement with one another. In showing how fundamental philosophical questions have been approached from a variety of perspectives, the module aims, more broadly, to provide new philosophical tools and to enhance possibilities for critically assessing familiar notions of philosophical practice. To support both of these aims, attention will

be paid to methodological issues involved in the study of non-western and premodern philosophical traditions, including that of how we might move beyond the colonial epistemology that has historically framed the study of these traditions.

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. Introduction

Week 2. Virtue and Self-Cultivation

Week 3. Self

Week 4. Transcendence

Week 5. Agency

Week 6. Reading Week (no classes)

Week 7. Knowledge

Week 8. Emotion

Week 9. Mind and Embodiment

Week 10. Humanity

Learning outcomes

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

- Have an understanding of the main concepts, concerns and positions articulated by key texts/thinkers of the major world philosophies studied.
- Appreciate the philosophical significance of the ideas and positions we have studied and be able to critically assess them in light of broader philosophical discussions and debates.
- Be able to bring different philosophical traditions into meaningful engagement with one another while being attentive to the methodological issues involved in cross-cultural inquiry.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

Students will be engaged in the close reading and analysis of primary and secondary literature as part of their preparatory work for both class discussions and for their essays.

Interdisciplinary

Sources studied cross modern disciplinary boundaries of philosophy, textual/literary studies, history and religion.

International

By definition, the analysis of different world philosophies needs to consider different cultural traditions in a multicultural and international context

Subject specific skills

Understanding of the key philosophical ideas and contributions of the texts and figures studied, of how foundational questions of philosophical inquiry have been approached in a number of the world's major philosophical traditions, and of how the ideas and approaches of these traditions might be brought to bear on issues of broader philosophical concern.

Transferable skills

Development of ability to read, analyse, and think critically about texts from different philosophical traditions, taking into account their historical and conceptual contexts; development of ability to write a clear, argumentative paper; broadening of perspectives and resources for approaching foundational philosophical questions; and the cultivation of new and alternative ways of thinking about how philosophy might be done.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	124 hours (83%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Private study and reading.

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 A6

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
1000-word essay	20%		Yes (extension)
2200-word essay	70%		Yes (extension)
Seminar participation	10%		No

Assessment group R2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
3000 word essay	100%		Yes (extension)

Feedback on assessment

Feedback on essays will be provided on the feedback form for the essay, addressing standard areas of evaluation and individual content.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
- UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
 - Year 1 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
 - Year 1 of L1CC Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway)
 - Year 1 of L1CD Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway)
 - Year 1 of L1CE Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway)
 - Year 1 of L1CF Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Tripartite Pathway)
- 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
- UPHA-V700 Undergraduate Philosophy
 - Year 1 of V700 Philosophy

- Year 1 of V700 Philosophy
- Year 1 of UPHA-V5L2 Undergraduate Philosophy and Politics
- Year 1 of UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 1 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 1 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 1 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 1 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 1 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 1 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 1 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - 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)
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 1 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 1 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law