

PH3HN-15 Making and Raising People: Ethics of Parenthood

26/27

Department

Philosophy

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Patrick Tomlin

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Being a parent is a central project in many people's lives. Being parented is something that most of us have experienced, and have been fundamentally shaped by. But bringing new people into the world and then raising them is fraught with moral and political controversies. In this module, we examine some moral and political questions that arise from the practices of creating new people, and raising children. This involves looking at: whether creating children is morally permissible, and whether there is moral reason to have (or not have) children for their own sake; whether we can rationally decide to become parents; what we owe to fetuses in the womb (beyond the issue of abortion); what a good childhood looks like; whom should get to parent which children; the limits of favouring our own children over others; the limits of what and how much we can 'pass down' to our children, and the extent to which we can shape their lives; and who should pay for the costs of raising children.

Module aims

The aim of this module is to introduce students to fundamental moral and political questions, and some of the most influential answers to those questions, that arise concerning creating, raising, and parenting children.

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.

1. Introduction
2. The morality of procreation: the procreation asymmetry
3. Rational decisions; and smoking in pregnancy
4. Do children have good lives?
5. Who gets to parent? I – blood, genes, gestation
6. READING WEEK
7. Who gets to parent? II – interests
8. The limits of parental partiality
9. The limits of parental influence
10. Who should pay for children?

Learning outcomes

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

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key moral and political questions concerning the creation and raising of children
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key positions taken by philosophers on these important questions
- demonstrate the capacity to critically engage with the philosophical questions concerning procreation, childhood, and parenting

Indicative reading list

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

Subject specific skills

The ability to understand, analyse and criticise philosophical ideas and arguments. The ability to develop a philosophical understanding of procreation, childhood, and parenting, and identify and answer moral and political questions about procreation, childhood, and parenting.

Transferable skills

The ability to argue, analyse complex ideas, and write clearly. The ability to grasp complex ideas and arguments, identify their strengths and weaknesses and write about them in a structured manner.

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

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.

Assessment group D

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
1000 word essay	20%		Yes (extension)
2 hour exam	80%		No

- Answerbook Pink (12 page)

Assessment group R

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
2 hour exam	100%		No

- Answerbook Pink (12 page)

Feedback on assessment

Students will receive detailed individual feedback on their essay

[Past exam papers for PH3HN](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
 - Year 2 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
 - Year 3 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
- Year 4 of UPHA-VL79 BA in Philosophy with Psychology (with Intercalated year)
- UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V1V5 History and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of V1V5 History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- UMAA-GV18 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
- UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
 - Year 2 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
 - Year 3 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
 - Year 4 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
- UPHA-V700 Undergraduate Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 4 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 4 of V700 Philosophy
- UIPA-V5L8 Undergraduate Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 2 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 2 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 3 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 3 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-V5L9 Undergraduate Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 2 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 3 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ74 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature (with Work Placement)

- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UPHA-VL80 Undergraduate Philosophy with Psychology (with Work Placement)
- UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics
 - Year 2 of VQ52 Philosophy, Literature and Classics
 - Year 3 of VQ52 Philosophy, Literature and Classics
 - Year 4 of VQ52 Philosophy, Literature and Classics
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 2 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - 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 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 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - 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)
 - 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)
 - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MH Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Philosophy Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MF Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Politics Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MI Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Economics Bipartite (Philosophy Major) (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MJ Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Politics Bipartite (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MG Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Politics/Economics Bipartite (Politics Major) (with Intercalated year)
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law

- Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Any PH programme
- Any PH programme

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 4 of UPHA-V702 Undergraduate Philosophy (with Work Placement)