

Module Title:	Modern Philosophy
Module Code:	406 PMOP
Level:	4
Credit rating:	20 credits
Duration:	200 hours
Teaching hours:	40
Academic Responsibility:	Christiano Turbil MA

Module aims:

- To foster an independent and inquiring attitude to fundamental beliefs;
- To acquaint students with the important thinkers and thought of Modern Philosophy
- To begin a confrontation with both the perennial questions of the Western philosophical tradition and contemporary philosophical problems
- To practice and strengthen the abilities to formulate thought clearly and rigorously in both verbal and written communication.

Indicative Module Content:

This module is an introduction to the major works of the modern period in philosophy. “Modern” here refers to the philosophical traditions of the 17th and 18th centuries. The works of some of the major philosophers of this period will be read. An attempt to understand their concerns as well as to relate the issues that concern them to more contemporary philosophical issues will be made.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the principle aspects of philosophy in the modern era and be able to offer a coherent appreciation of that philosophy and major modern philosophers.
2. Think and work creatively and intellectually and be stimulated in their search for useful knowledge and insight into the endeavours of modern philosophy and its practical applications.
3. Critically reflect, assess and offer problem solving solutions to aspects of their work both in this area of study and others by adopting a systematic philosophical approach.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module will be taught through a variety of teaching methods: delivered lectures, question/discussion, power point presentation, philosophical text, response and discussion, problem setting and possible solutions from students, presentations by students (with feedback from peers), at least one of the presentations will involve the students working in groups.

Assessment:

The module will be assessed through two 2,500 word essays

Indicative Essay Titles

1. The prejudice shared by Rationalism and Empiricism is that man does not know things directly but grasps only their impressions (phenomena). Rationalism is concerned with the impressions made on the intellect, Empiricism with those on the senses. Can the knowing subject be certain of the existence of known objects?
2. What is The Fallacy of Epistemological Idealism?
3. All of Descartes' framework for epistemological certainty is built upon his own existence. How is objective certainty reached from the subjective existence of an individual person?
4. Critically evaluate what Kant concludes in relation to what is and is not certain in regards to human knowledge, morality and freedom of the will.

Illustrative Bibliography

- Ariew, R. and Eric Watkins, eds. *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1998.
- Cahn, S. M. ed. *Classics of Western Philosophy*. Second Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1985.
- Descartes, Rene. *The Philosophical Works of Descartes*. Volumes 1 & 2. Translated by Fieser, J. *Philosophy: History and Problems*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2003.
- Haldane E. S. and G.R.T. Ross. London: Cambridge University Press, 1968.
- Emmanuel, S.M. and Patrick Goold. *Modern Philosophy - From Descartes to Nietzsche: An Anthology*. Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishers Inc., 2002.
- Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Pure Reason*. Translated by Werner S. Pluhar. Introduction by Patricia W. Kitcher. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company Inc., 1996.
- Melchert, N. *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*. Second Edition. California: Mayfield Publishing Company, 1995.

Solomon, R. C. *A History of Western Philosophy: 7 - Continental Philosophy Since 1750 - The Rise and Fall of the Self*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.

Stumpf, S. E. *Socrates to Sartre: A History of Philosophy*. Third Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1982.