

Module Title:	Philosophical Anthropology
Module Code:	506 PPAN
Level:	5
Credit rating:	20 credits
Duration:	200 hours
Teaching hours:	40
Academic Responsibility:	Christiano Turbil MA

Module aims:

Philosophical Anthropology aims to ask the most fundamental questions about the nature of human beings as socio-culturally structured, embodied, living organisms in a way that benefits from both the empirical human sciences and our own privileged phenomenological access to the experience of being such beings. This module will aim:

- To understand the key problems in the historical quest for a philosophy and science of Man
- To have general knowledge of the present scientific and philosophical inquiries into these problems.
- To have insight into historical and contemporaneous philosophical and scientific thought on questions related to the study of human nature.

Module Content:

This module seeks to examine the philosophical, theological, social and cultural understandings of the 'human person' and his/her relationship both to self and the world which he/she inhabits physically, spiritually and noetically. Areas studied will include:

- the mind-body problem/ eliminative materialism,
- reductive materialism,
- behaviourism,
- the type-type identity thesis,
- functionalism,
- token-token identity thesis,
- property dualism, substance,
- dualism,
- dichotomy vs. trichotomy.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students should be able to

1. demonstrate a systematic understanding of the principle aspects of Philosophical Anthropology and be able to offer a coherent appreciation of that philosophy and major Anthropologists
2. formulate and express ideas at different levels of abstraction,
3. assess and constructively and objectively criticise the Philosophical Anthropological views of others.

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:

This module will be assessed through two 2,500 word essays.

Indicative Essay Titles

1. What are the three ideas of Kant's cognitive architecture and what do they contribute to cognitive science?
2. In the Philosophy of Mind, how is Dualism understood ?
3. How is self-knowledge understood in Philosophical Anthropology and what is special about it?
4. What role does Functionalism play in Philosophical Anthropology?

Illustrative Bibliography

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- Applebaum, H., A., *Perspectives in Cultural Anthropology*, SUNY Press, New York, 1987
- Bahurst, D., Sydnovich, C., *The Social Self*, Published Sage Publications, London, 1995
- Bennett, J. W., *Human Ecology As Human Behavior: Essays in Environmental and Development Anthropology*, Transaction Publishers, London, 1996
- Bowie, F., *The Anthropology of Religion: : An Introduction*, Blackwell Publishing, Oxford 2000
- Cutrofello, A., *Continental Philosophy: A Contemporary Introduction*, Routledge UK 2005
- Glendinning, S., *The Idea of Continental Philosophy: A Philosophical Chronicle*, Edinburgh University Press, 2006
- Kojève, A., Queneau, R., *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel: Lectures on the Phenomenology of Spirit*, Published 1980 Cornell University Press
- Foster, J. *The Immaterial Self*, Routledge, London 1991
- Kenny, A., *The Metaphysics of Mind*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1989:
- Kurtz, P., *Philosophical Essays in Pragmatic Naturalism* Prometheus Books, London 1990
- LeRon Shults, F., *Reforming Theological Anthropology: After the Philosophical Turn to Relationality*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2003
- Pihlström, S., *Pragmatic Moral Realism: A Transcendental Defense*, Rodopi, London 2005
- Smythies, J. R. and Beloff, J, eds *The Case for Dualism*, University of Virginia Press, Virginia, 1989.