



Module Specification

The Death of God and The Meaning of Life

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Part 1: Information

Module title: The Death of God and The Meaning of Life

Module code: UZRPMX-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Philosophy

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module will offer an introduction to some of the central themes of nineteenth and twentieth century European philosophy, with a focus on philosophy of religion from Kant to Nietzsche and existentialism from Nietzsche to Sartre.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See learning outcomes.

Outline syllabus: The first half of the module will explore debates about the existence of and knowledge of God that developed in the wake of Kant's decisive arguments against rational theology, with a focus on the relationship between reason and faith, and the ethical implications of the denial of the existence of God.

The second half of the module will introduce twentieth century existentialism, as expressed by (e.g.) Heidegger, Camus, and Sartre, focusing on debates about meaning in life and the philosophical significance of death.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning

Lectures will introduce the broad contours of the philosophical debates, raising specific issues for students to pursue independently. Seminars will offer a collaborative forum for students to critically engage with the material. Students requiring closer guidance and support will be invited to tutorial sessions for further support.

Independent learning

Students will be expected to read set texts each week and to draw on their reading in the seminar discussions. Assignment questions will draw on the topics covered by the set readings, so that there will be no rigid division between seminar reading and assignment preparation. Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL): The use of TEL is an integral feature at all levels of study in each module on the program. MyUWE and Blackboard, the university supported learning portal and virtual learning environment, is regularly used to support students' learning, carry out teaching and learning activities, as well as to store and disseminate learning materials.

By means of these systems, students will be able to engage with the material, other students and members of staff, while also making use of the options they provide (blogs, journals, audio, video, discussion boards, wikis, and so on). In addition, students and tutors will be able to utilise TEL (e.g. Collaborate, Lync and Skype) to facilitate remote contact and thus increase flexibility, particularly for students who live

far from campus. Some modules will also potentially offer both generic and discipline-specific online content. Existing university resources will be utilised such as The Research Observatory where appropriate. Learning technologies such as e-portfolios might also be exploited to potentially support students e.g. while on placement and to facilitate students' development and the assessment of a portfolio of work.

Students are typically expected to have 3 hours of contact time per week over a 24-week period of study.

Contact time will take the form of a lecture, in which the contours of a specific philosophical topic will be mapped out, and seminars in which students will critically discuss the material that has been presented in the lectures. There will also be a module-specific tutorial hour each week for students to access one-to-one support, as well as regular contact via Blackboard and email.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Display a knowledge of nineteenth and twentieth century European philosophy, especially themes in philosophy of religion and existentialism

MO2 Understand the nature of philosophical argument

MO3 Demonstrate the ability to think critically about philosophical problems

MO4 Show transferable writing skills developed through the presentation and analysis of complex philosophical arguments

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzrpmx-30-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzrpmx-30-1.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: A portfolio, which will typically consist of:

A reflective blog; students will be asked to upload several multimedia entries (4 texts + 2 audio/video recordings) in their private blog throughout the year, and feedback will be provided on each entry via blog comments. This will mean that students are receiving feedback on their work at various points throughout the year which will enable them to continually engage with the feedback process to improve their work. The portfolio also gives students the opportunity to develop communication skills using different media.

Additional short tasks throughout the academic year relating to seminar preparation and structured online teaching activities (e.g. discussion forum contribution, short answers to set questions on reading, a short passage analysis, preparing some questions on the essential seminar reading).

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Philosophy {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] - Withdrawn BA (Hons) 2022-23

Philosophy [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] - Withdrawn BA (Hons) 2022-23

Philosophy {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] - Withdrawn BA (Hons) 2022-23