UWE Bristol | University of the West of England

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Theories of Knowledge		
Module Code	UZRSTB-15-1	Level	Level 4
For implementation from	2020-21		
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5
Faculty	Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences	Field	Philosophy
Department	HAS Dept of Health & Social Sciences		
Module Type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co-requisites	None		
Module Entry Requirements	None		
PSRB Requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
Overview: This module provides an introduction to epistemology, as the study of the possibility and character of knowledge. In general it will focus on the opposition between empiricism and rationalism, as demonstrated in the works of David Hume and René Descartes, in particular . **Educational Aims:** See learning outcomes. **Outline Syllabus:** During the module, students will develop the analytic, logical and argumentative skills necessary to pursue more advanced work at the second and third level of philosophical studies. **Teaching and Learning Methods:** Teaching will follow a lecture/seminar format, with lectures outlining the core problems, and seminars providing an environment for students to broaden their grasp of these problems through interrogation, analysis and presentations. To facilitate a student-led approach to the seminars, and to develop core analytic and argumentative skills, student presentations will play a major role in how the seminars are run. Since philosophical problems cannot be restricted to academic materials, students will be encouraged by example to locate such problems in a wider variety of texts and contexts than the primary readings.

Scheduled learning includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and workshops; fieldwork; external visits; work based learning; supervised time in studio/workshop.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc. These sessions constitute an average time per level as indicated in the table below. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices you make.

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' evelopment 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 will take the form of weekly lectures, seminars, online conferences (for instance) and PAL sessions.

Staff will also be available for additional one-to-one contact with students as required, as well as offering regular contact via Blackboard and email.

Part 3: Assessment			
Philosophy as a discipline places an emphasis on the skills of analysis and argument, focussing on the written text. The written text therefore figures prominently in the assessment strategy. The discipline also places importance on the skills of confidence and capacity to work with complex reasoning and ideas.			
First Sit Components	**Final Assessment**	**Element weighting**	**Description**
Portfolio - Component A		100 %	Essay and shorter reflective piece (2000 words)
Resit Components	**Final Assessment**	**Element weighting**	**Description**
Portfolio - Component A		100 %	Essay and shorter reflective piece (2000 words)

Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes:

Module Learning Outcomes	Reference
Evidence a firm grasp of the basics of epistemology, in particular rationalism (Descartes) and empiricism (Hume)	MO1
Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental problems in the theory of knowledge, relating to the origins of knowledge, its limits, and its possible degrees of certainty	MO2
Demonstrate an acquaintance with the history of philosophy, particularly in the modern period	MO3
Communicate appropriately using verbal and written skills in the presentation and analysis of arguments	MO4
Apply philosophical reasoning to problems encountered in a variety of texts and contexts	MO5

Contact Hours	**Independent Study Hours:**	
	Independent study/self-guided study	114
	Total Independent Study Hours:	114
	Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	
	Face-to-face learning	36
	Total Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	36
	Hours to be allocated	150
	Allocated Hours	150

Reading List	*The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:* https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzrstb-15-1.html

Part 5: Contributes Towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: