



Module Specification

Early Modern Philosophy

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Early Modern Philosophy

Module code: UZRSYQ-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School 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: The module introduces students to the philosophical developments and theories of the 17th and 18th centuries in Great Britain and continental Europe, which provide the historical and conceptual background to current philosophical debates.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The aims of this module are to:

Introduce students to the philosophical developments and theories of the 17th and 18th centuries in Great Britain and continental Europe.

Provide historical and conceptual background to current philosophical debates.

Outline syllabus: The module will introduce students to some of the key debates and figures in Early Modern Philosophy. This could be done either through looking at different philosophers' perspectives on the key questions and concerns which characterise the Early Modern Period; or through studying the works of one of its central figures in detail. Therefore the module has the potential to be topic-based or text-based.

Possible topics include: rationalism and empiricism; the nature of God; the nature of substance; causality; the relationship between mind and body; monism and dualism; the possibility and nature of human freedom; the role of the state and social contract theory; the impact of Early Modern Theories on subsequent and contemporary philosophy (for example Spinoza's influence on contemporary environmental and animal ethics).

Possible thinkers include: Spinoza, Leibniz, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hobbes, Cavendish, Masham, du Châtelet, Astell, Cockburn

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will employ a combination of lectures, seminars, and workshops. Our pedagogy is interactive, discussion-based, and student-facing. Students are an active part of the learning process, and will be asked to contribute ideas, questions, and critical standpoints. The learning environment is designed to promote peer-to-peer support and exchange.

While teaching and learning will be predominantly classroom based, appropriate use will be made of online resources and learning environments.

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

MO1 Critically engage with the principal philosophers, problems and ideas within early modern philosophy

MO2 Present the central arguments within early modern philosophy with clarity

MO3 Critically examine material from early modern philosophy using a range of logical and analytical skills

MO4 Evaluate the ways that early modern philosophy has influenced subsequent philosophical developments and theories

MO5 Produce own arguments relating to debates in early modern philosophy

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 0

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzrsyq-15-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzrsyq-15-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment for this module is as follows:

Assessment One: a portfolio (40%), which will typically comprise a series of small tasks, set and marked throughout the module; discussion board contributions; essay plans; seminar presentations.

Rationale: the portfolio approach allows module leaders to adapt assessment to different material and readings in different years, diversify assessment methods to increase the range of skills developed such as the ability to give oral presentations, and encourage ongoing student engagement with course material and contact teaching helping them do better on their assessments. As the portfolio allows for tasks to be completed throughout the module, this assessment is formative as well as summative as it allows students to gain feedback on their work and their understanding throughout the module. Including an element which supports the essay, such as the essay plan, also allows students to gauge their progress and to build on their work in the portfolio when they come to their essay.

Assessment Two: a 2000-word written essay (60%).

Rationale: the written essay allows students to demonstrate critical engagement with the course material as well as giving them the space to make a sustained philosophical argument using that material.

Formative assessment will be undertaken within lectorial and seminar/workshop sessions.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Essay: 2,000 words

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Essay: 2,000 words

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Philosophy [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

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

Philosophy {Foundation}[Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Philosophy [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Philosophy [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

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

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