Module Specification

Existence and Reality

Version: 2027-28, v3.0, 11 Apr 2025

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Existence and Reality

Module code: UZRY8U-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2027-28

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 considers metaphysics as the most general, most universal and the most abstract of the sciences. Exploring ontology as first philosophy and the relation of concepts to reality.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The aims of this module are to:

Introduce and discuss the key concepts and nature of metaphysical inquiry.

Investigate the context and relevance of metaphysics in different fields of study.

Study the centrality of metaphysics for other areas of philosophy.

Outline syllabus: The module will introduce students to key concepts and debates in metaphysics, both over the history of philosophy, and in relation to contemporary debates in the field. As well as ensuring that students have a strong grounding in different positions and debates in metaphysics, the module will also emphasise the centrality of metaphysics for other areas of philosophy.

Topics the course could cover include: reality and appearance; being and existents; being and becoming; truth and illusion; connectivity and correlation; the universal and the particular; necessity and contingency; the nature of theory; art and metaphysics; politics and metaphysics; science and metaphysics; realism and idealism; conceptus of freedom; metaphysics of time; metaphysics of causation; system and experience.

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.

The content of the module would be appropriate for the use of live briefs.

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

MO1 Critically understand the nature of metaphysical inquiry

MO2 Locate, analyse and criticise the metaphysical assumptions underlying a given theoretical position

MO3 Identify the context and relevance of metaphysics in diverse fields of inquiry

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 117 hours

Face-to-face learning = 33 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/221CC785-9BED-5F84-9A4F-D56A24ED83E8.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Summative Assessment:

Assessment Task 1: Pre-recorded presentation - 10-minutes maximum.

Rationale:

In the presentation, students will be required to apply metaphysical readings and philosophical concepts explored during the course to particular contemporary philosophical debates or metaphysical problems in a way that is accessible and clear. This will enable students to develop their ability to relate theoretical debates in metaphysics to specific issues or case studies discussed in seminars. Seminars will provide opportunities to explore how to approach the presentations effectively. Presentations will support the development of transferable verbal communication skills, critical thinking, and the ability to articulate complex ideas, thereby contributing to graduate outcomes.

Formative feedback will be provided via online discussions, online session learning and through discussions with tutors.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: 10 minute (maximum) pre recorded presentation

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Presentation (Resit)

Description: 10 minute (maximum) pre recorded presentation

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Philosophy {Foundation}[Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Philosophy [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2026-27

Philosophy {Foundation}[Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Philosophy [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2026-27

Philosophy [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Philosophy [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Philosophy {Foundation}[Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26