



## **Module Specification**

### **Reason and Critique**

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## **Part 1: Information**

**Module title:** Reason and Critique

**Module code:** UZRYQ5-30-2

**Level:** Level 5

**For implementation from:** 2027-28

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**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:** This module will explore key developments in the history of philosophy covering a broad scope of philosophical debates from early to late modernity. These fundamental historical discussions frame the philosophical discourses running through contemporary debates in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and aesthetics.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** The aims of this module are to:

Enable students to explore a range of philosophical ideas and evaluate their potential relevance for contemporary thought.

Enable students to understand the historical development of philosophical systems and schools and be able to recognise the ways in which these are the foundations of many contemporary philosophical positions.

Provide historical and conceptual background to current philosophical debates.

**Outline syllabus:** This module will explore key developments in the history of philosophy covering a broad scope of philosophical debates from early to late modernity. Understanding the historical development of ideas in general as well as the evolution of particular influential concepts helps us understand the conceptual and value landscape in which we act, and as such the module will also highlight connections to contemporary debates.

This module will include both detailed examination of texts and consider how some thinkers have responded to and influenced each other. It could include a sustained textual analysis as part of the module. The module will include thinkers and debates from the Early Modern period, and trace continuing themes from this period through Kant to the post-Kantian period. Thinkers may include: Descartes; Leibniz; Locke; Spinoza; Kant; Schelling; Fichte; Hegel; Gunderrode; Nietzsche; Kierkegaard.

The themes will range from debates in our approach to knowledge such as that between the empiricists and rationalists, new understandings of nature, evolving conceptions of the self, and challenges to our notions of God, reason, political authority, and morality in the face of seismic social, religious, scientific and economic shifts.

### **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 key problems and ideas within the history of philosophy.

**MO2** Demonstrate transferable written and interpretive skills in the presentation and analysis of arguments.

**MO3** Show understanding of the development of philosophical ideas and engage with debates between different thinkers.

**MO4** Organise and summarise material, and present material and arguments clearly in live conditions.

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/44ED4397-C4F9-30F4-5494-F735DBEF716D.html) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/44ED4397-C4F9-30F4-5494-F735DBEF716D.html>

## Part 4: Assessment

**Assessment strategy:** Summative Assessments:

Assessment Task 1: two textual analyses of 1000 words (maximum) each

Rationale: This assessment allows students to demonstrate their interpretation of the course material as well as enabling students to demonstrate close engagement with primary sources from the module. The inclusion of a written component focused on textual analysis will allow students to demonstrate skills in written communication, philosophical analysis, interpretation of philosophical texts, and the reconstruction of, and critical engagement with, arguments.

Assessment Task 2: Live presentation, followed by questions (10 mins maximum for presentation and Q&A)

Rationale: The presentation will demonstrate students' ability to communicate philosophical ideas using a combination of subject specific and transferable skills. As well as demonstrating critical engagement with the material the presentation will also focus on historical development of ideas. The presentation will be followed by live questions from the module lead which will give students the opportunity to expand on their ideas in more detail and plays an important role in safeguarding against AI vulnerability.

Seminars will include an opportunity to discuss how to approach presentations. Presentations support the development of transferable verbal communication skills and thus graduate outcomes.

### **Assessment tasks:**

#### **Primary Source Exercise (First Sit)**

Description: 2 x 1000 words (maximum)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

#### **Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: 10 minute (maximum) presentation

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

**Primary Source Exercise (Resit)**

Description: 2 x 1000 words (maximum)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: 10 minute (maximum) presentation

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

**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