



Module Specification

Hellenistic and Neo-Platonist Philosophy

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Contents

Module Specification	1
Part 1: Information	2
Part 2: Description	2
Part 3: Teaching and learning methods	3
Part 4: Assessment.....	4
Part 5: Contributes towards	6

Part 1: Information

Module title: Hellenistic and Neo-Platonist Philosophy

Module code: UZRSYJ-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Philosophy

Module type: Standard

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: This module examines topics selected from the Hellenistic philosophies of Stoicism, Epicureanism, Academic and Pyrrhonian Scepticism,

and/or the Neo-Platonist tradition which all flourished in the period after Plato and Aristotle. The period is marked by the idea that philosophy be conceived as a way of life, in which claims about the nature of the physical world or what we can know are seen to have direct implications for how one lives. It is also a period especially rich for inter-school argument, with Stoics and Epicureans arguing against one another and Sceptics questioning the assumptions of both. We shall examine ideas and arguments concerned with areas such as knowledge, cosmology, psychology, pleasure, virtue, emotions, determinism, politics, death, fortune, and tranquillity.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Weekly lectures will be used to introduce students to key arguments and information about a specific topic.

Weekly seminars will be used to provide students with the opportunity to discuss, analyse, and debate substantive issues related to the material of the week.

In addition to lectures and seminars, web-based resources will be used to support students' learning. To further facilitate and enhance students' learning, prompt, detailed and constructive feedback on all assessment will be given. This will aid students in developing knowledge of the relevant subject matter and research, analysis and communication skills.

Module Learning outcomes:

MO1 Demonstrate an ability to use a range of logical, analytic and theoretical tools in the analysis of problems from Hellenistic and/or Neo-Platonist philosophy

MO2 Demonstrate knowledge of the work of selected thinkers in the Hellenistic and/or Neo-Platonist traditions

MO3 Demonstrate transferable skills in the presentation and analysis of arguments

MO4 Demonstrate an ability to assess the validity as well as the force of philosophical arguments

MO5 Demonstrate an awareness of the ways that Hellenistic and/or Neo-Platonist philosophy has influenced subsequent philosophical developments and theories

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

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

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment for the module will consist in an oral exam (40%) as well as a portfolio (60%).

An example of the portfolio would be: 2000 word Essay (85% of portfolio component), 15 minute spoken exam on the content of the essay (requiring no additional reading or research) allowing students to clarify and develop their points and examiners to probe their understanding, (10%), bringing a discussion question on the essential seminar reading to a minimum of 8 seminars (5%). Portfolio content may vary between years depending on the material but will be set out clearly in the module handbook at the beginning of the module. As portfolio content includes elements that involve ongoing participation in seminars the resit run of the module replaces the portfolio with a 2500 word essay.

A 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. A presentation element also helps prepare for 3rd modules with oral assessment and responds to student feedback requesting this.

Assessment components:**Examination - Component A (First Sit)**

Description: Oral Examination

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

Portfolio - Component B (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

Examination - Component A (Resit)

Description: Oral examination

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Written Assignment - Component B (Resit)

Description: Essay (2500 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Philosophy [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Philosophy {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20