

Distance Learning Modules

Philosophy

PY1801 Ethical Issues (by Distance Learning)

Co-ordinator: Dr L Jones, Philosophy email: lj14

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Anti-requisites: PY1901, PY1101, PY1103, PY1105

Description: 'Ethical Issues' provides an accessible and comprehensive introduction to the philosophical significance of the most pressing moral problems of today, e.g. euthanasia, world poverty, and the moral status of animals and the environment; as well as a guide to the rival theoretical approaches used to reflect upon these issues: consequentialism, Kantian ethics, virtue theories, and moral skepticism. The module will also address meta-ethical questions concerning the metaphysical and epistemological status of moral claims and judgements (are there moral facts? Is ethical knowledge obtainable?)

Class Hour: No traditional classes: e-learning module.

Teaching: Via WebCT

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Re-Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

PY1802 Reasoning and Knowledge (by Distance Learning)

Co-ordinator: Professor P Clark, Philosophy email: pjc

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2008-09

Anti-requisites: PY1001, PY1002, PY1003

Description: What should we believe? How should we think? This module provides an introduction to informal modes of reasoning and to philosophical ideas about the differences between good and bad arguments. We will discuss induction and deduction, justification and knowledge, and will study elementary features of logic. The module is an essential foundation for further study in philosophy, and teaches critical and analytic skills central to many other disciplines.

Class Hour: No traditional classes: e-learning module.

Teaching: Via WebCT

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Re-Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

PY2801 Mind and Reality (by Distance Learning)

Co-ordinator: Dr K Hawley, Philosophy email: kjh5

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2009-10

Anti-requisites: PY1002, PY1004, PY1005

Description: What am I, and what is reality? Am I part of the scientific, law-governed material world? If so, can I really act freely? How could a material thing be conscious? Am I the same person I was ten years ago? What, fundamentally, are material things and their properties? Can we understand the nature of space and time? Is the human mind capable of proving that God exists? This module will enable students to understand and begin to answer such fundamental metaphysical questions, and to gain valuable skills in reasoning and abstract thought.

Class Hour: No traditional classes: e-learning module.

Teaching: Via WebCT

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Re-Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Distance Learning Modules – 1000 & 2000 Level 2008/09 – August 2008

PY2802 Modern Philosophy: from Descartes to Kant (by Distance Learning)

Co-ordinator: Dr J Harris, Philosophy email: jah15

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2009-10

Anti-requisites: PY2004, PY2901

Description: For the purposes of this module, 'modern philosophy' means philosophy written in Europe from Descartes in the mid-17th century to Kant at the end of the 18th century. This was an extraordinary period in the history of western thought, when a variety of brilliant thinkers devoted themselves to working out the philosophical implications of the 'new science'. This generated questions about the extent of human knowledge, about what can be known with certainty, about perception, and about how we acquire knowledge through the senses. There was also renewed interest in morality, its foundation, and its relation to human nature. This module will critically examine the arguments of major philosophers of the modern period, including Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Kant.

Class Hour: No traditional classes: e-learning module.

Teaching: Via WebCT

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Re-Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%