University College Dublin

National University of Ireland

##### PHILOSOPHY

##### Level 1 MODULES 2012-2013

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| **First Semester**  **(10 September – 30 November 2012)** | |  | **Second Semester**  **(21 January - 8 March and 25 March – 26 April 2013)** | |
| **Mon @ 10-11**  **&**  **Wed @ 10-11**  **Th M** | **The Search for Meaning**  **PHIL 10110**  Prof Gerard Casey/Dr Mahon O’Brien |  | **Mon @ 10-11**  **&**  **Wed @ 10-11**  **Th M** | **Introduction to Modern Philosophy**  **PHIL 10030**  Dr Tim Mooney/Dr Mahon O’Brien |
| **Mon @ 11-12**  **&**  **Wed @ 12-1**  **Th M** | **Introduction to Problems of Philosophy**  **PHIL10020**  Dr Jim O’Shea |  | **Mon @ 11-12**  **&**  **Wed @ 12-1**  **Th M** | **Introduction to Continental Philosophy PHIL 10100**  Prof Brian O’Connor |
| **Tues @ 12-1**  **&**  **Thurs @ 11-12**  **Th P** | **Introduction to Moral Philosophy PHIL 10040**  Dr Christopher Cowley |  | **Tues @ 12-1**  **&**  **Thurs @ 11-12**  **Th M** | **Introduction to Greek Philosophy PHIL 10070**  Prof Fran O’Rourke/Dr Tim Crowley |

**SEMESTER ONE**

**The Search for Meaning: East and West PHIL 10110**This module offers an introduction to philosophy through an examination of major movements, themes and figures drawn from the Eastern and Western traditions. The course is divided into two parts: Western philosophy and Eastern philosophy. Western philosophy will be introduced through a reading of selected texts from figures such as Plato, Augustine, Marx, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche and Sartre. Themes such as the meaning of human existence, the nature of the soul, death and immortality, absurdity and authenticity, will be treated. The Eastern section of the module aims to introduce students to the classical philosophical thought of India and China. By the end of the module, students should have a firm grasp of the basic tenets and arguments of Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism and Buddhism, and should be able to compare and contrast them critically with their Western counterparts

**Introduction to Problems of Philosophy PHIL 10020**This course provides an introductory analysis of some of the most exciting age-old problems of philosophy and the solutions offered to them, focusing on the logical structure of arguments. The following are typical among the several topics that will be examined (further details at the start of the module): 1. Scepticism and the possibility of knowledge; 2. Free will and determinism; 3. The human mind and consciousness ; 4. The nature of the self (personal identity); 5. The existence of God; 6. Reasoning and the world. An engaging secondary source overview text is: Simon Blackburn, \_Think\_ (Oxford Univ. Press, 1999). A good guide for writing essays and learning to think philosophically is the following: Jay F. Rosenberg, \_The Practice of Philosophy: A Handbook for Beginners\_, 3rd ed. (Prentice-Hall, 1996), in UCD library. Selected primary readings will be made available on Blackboard during the semester.

**Introduction to Moral Philosophy PHIL 10040**This module will comprise a detailed examination of three moral-political concepts: justice, responsibility and equality. We will consider how these concepts are applied in the contexts of the family, of a friendship, and of the state. We will look at the different meanings of each concept, and at the relationships between the concepts.

**SEMESTER TWO**

**Introduction to Modern Philosophy PHIL 10030**Can I be certain that there is a world outside me, or am I confined to my own mind alone? What can I know about the world, if there is one? And if it exists knowably, how can I live with other people within it? Are we naturally selfish and dangerous? Or do we have a compassionate and gentle nature brutalised by a corrupt society? These are some of the questions to be discussed in this introduction to early modern philosophy of knowledge and social and political philosophy. The way of approaching the questions will be through a critical and historical treatment of selected writings by Descartes (1596-1650), Berkeley (1685-1753), Hobbes (1588-1679) and Rousseau (1712-1778).

**Introduction to Continental Philosophy PHIL 10110**Some of the most striking and radical ideas of contemporary western culture have emerged from the tradition of philosophy known as "Continental Philosophy." Among its most influential and transformative concepts are the idea of alienation, the death of God, nihilism, and multi-culturalism. This tradition has changed the ways in which the modern world thinks about religion, technology, freedom and history. As a style of philosophy it is distinguished from the analytic and science-friendly Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-American traditions. This module will focus on a number of Continental Philosophy's most revolutionary innovations, analyzing the claims and arguments of a number of key texts. Topic 1. Against Religion (Opium of the People [Marx] and the Death of God [Nietzsche]). Topic 2. Destructive Technology (Alienated Labour [Marx] and the Dialectic of Enlightenment [Adorno and Horkheimer] Topic 3. How can we be Free? (Condemned to be Free [Sartre] and Education after Auschwitz [Adorno]Topic 4. History and Meaning (The Genealogy of Morals [Nietzsche] and A History of Madness [Foucault])Topic 5. What is History? (Universal History [Kant] and Multicultural History [Herder]).

**Introduction to Greek Philosophy PHIL 10070**This module offers a critical introduction to some of the most important and influential ideas and arguments of Ancient Greek Philosophy. The module is divided into two parts. The first part charts the course of philosophy from the earliest Greek philosophers, the 'Pre-Socratics', to the classic figures of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Questions for consideration will include the origin of the universe, the nature of reality, the question of knowledge, man's place in the cosmos, and his ultimate purpose. The second part of the module focuses on Socrates and his impact on philosophy. We will examine the evidence for Socrates' thought, concentrating in particular on some of Plato's so-called 'Socratic' dialogues. These short, lively dialogues offer excellent introductions not only to Socrates, but to the practice of philosophy itself. Topics to be considered include the following: the 'Socratic problem', the 'Socratic method' (the elenchus); the Socratic theory of definition; the Euthyphro dilemma; the paradox of inquiry; and the theory of recollection (anamnesis).