

Module Code	AP-1403							
Module Title	Central Issues in Philosophy							
Type of Module:	Breadth							
Modular Credits: 4	Student Workload:	8 hours per week	Contact hours:	2 hours per week				
Prerequisite:	None							
Antirequisite:	None							
Aims/Objectives/Rationale:								
<p>Philosophy has been the basis of the natural and social sciences since the time of the ancient Greeks. The study of philosophy can help develop in students self reflective awareness about the different disciplines they are being trained in. Philosophy can enhance our understanding of the modern worldview which is founded upon and inspired by fundamental philosophical insights. In more general terms, philosophy can help develop critical acumen, enhance our power to articulate thoughts clearly and consistently, and to think through issues comprehensively without losing sight of details or the overall picture. The purpose of this course would be less to teach different philosophical theories and more to actually learn how to <i>do</i> philosophy.</p>								
Module Content :								
<p>The module is a standard introduction to the main issues in Western Philosophy. The course would be taught mainly topically rather than historically. The main topics covered include theory of knowledge (such as scepticism, the problem of justification of beliefs etc), philosophy of religion (arguments for the existence of God etc), metaphysics (the problem of free will, personal identity), philosophy of mind (the problem of dualism), ethics (issues related to moral responsibility and introduction to major moral theories), practical ethics (issues of justice, poverty, world peace etc), and social philosophy (theories of society and state).</p>								
Assessment	Examination:	50 %	Coursework: Participation: 5% Reading quizzes (best five): 5% Two essays: 20% Tutorial journals (best five): 10% Summaries (best three): 10%	50 %				
Textbook(s)/References :								
<p>Blackburn, S. (2001). <i>Think: A compelling introduction to Philosophy</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Feinberg, J. (ed.). (2007). <i>Reason and Responsibility: Readings in some basic problems of Philosophy</i>. Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing.</p> <p>Gaarder, J. (1994). <i>Sophie's World: A novel about the history of Philosophy</i>. Trans. Paulette Møller. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.</p>								