

Module Code	:	AP-2402		
Module Title	:	History of Modern Philosophy I: From Descartes to Kant		
Programme	:	Bachelor of Arts		
Type of Module	:	Breadth		
Modular Credits	:	4	Student Workload:	8 – 10 hours per week
			Contact Hours:	2 hours per week
Prerequisite	:	None		
Anti-requisite	:	None		
Aims :				
<p>The purpose of this module is to enable students to gain a critical but contextually situated understanding of some of the metaphysical, epistemological, as well as moral, political, and social ideas of some of the most important philosophers of the early modern period, i.e. between the 1500s to the 1800s. This module will allow students to develop an understanding of how to construct and critically assess arguments in philosophy as well as identify problems of consistency and justification. Students will be able to learn to philosophies in a real world context and develop critical and analytical reading and writing skills. The module will also explore fundamental philosophical questions of lasting personal and social value. As with all philosophy the emphasis is not on imparting information but to help students develop their own thinking about the issues involved and apply it to their own circumstances.</p>				
Module Content :				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descartes and his revolution in philosophy especially his new method of philosophical enquiry • The medieval understanding of method and enquiry • Justifications of science provided around the same period especially by British populists of science • British empiricism (Locke, Hume and Berkeley) • Continental rationalism (Spinoza and Leibniz among others) • Kant’s synthesis of empiricism and rationalism in his critical philosophy with a special emphasis on understanding the significance of Kant’s “Copernican turn”. 				
Assessment :	Examination :	50%	Coursework :	50%
	2 hours		Web postings	10%
			2 Essays	30%
			Tutorial exercises	10%
Textbook(s)/References :				
<p>Brown, S. (2003). <i>Routledge History of Philosophy, vol. V: British Philosophy and the Age of Enlightenment</i>. London: Routledge.</p> <p>Copleston, F. C. (1998). <i>History of Philosophy, Volume IV & V</i>. London: Search Press</p> <p>Cottingham, J. (1998). <i>The Rationalists</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press</p> <p>Parkinson, G. H. R. (2003). <i>Routledge History of Philosophy, vol. IV: The Renaissance and 17th C. Rationalism</i>. London: Routledge.</p> <p>Woolhouse, R. S. (1998). <i>The Empiricists</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press</p>				