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
2 hours per week

Prerequisite : None
Anti-requisite : None

Aims :
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.

Module Content :
- 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 :
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<th>Examination</th>
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<td>2 hours</td>
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<td>Coursework</td>
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<td>Tutorial exercises</td>
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Textbook(s)/References :