Nottingham Trent University
Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	Philosophy: Ancient and Modern
2	Module Code:	PHIL10211
3	Credit Points:	20
4	Duration:	Year Long
5	School:	Arts and Humanities
6	Campus:	Clifton
7	Date this version first approved to run:	September 2012

8	**Pre, post and co-requisites:**
	These are modules that you must have studied previously in order to take this module, or modules that you must study simultaneously or in a subsequent academic session
	Pre, Co, Post Module Code Module Title

9	**Courses containing the module**				
	Level	Core/Option	Mode	Code	Course Title
			FT	HUMA008	BA (H) Communication & Society and Philosophy
			FT	HUMA016	BA (H) English and Philosophy
			FT	HUMA023	BA (H) European Studies and Philosophy
			FT	HUMA028	BA (H) Film & TV and Philosophy
			FT	HUMA033	BA (H) Global Studies and Philosophy
			FT	HUMA038	BA (H) History and Philosophy
			FT	HUMA042	BA (H) Linguistics and Philosophy
			FT	HUMA045	BA (H) Philosophy and International Relations
			SW	MODL014	BA (H) French and Philosophy
			SW	MODL027	BA (H) German and Philosophy
			SW	MODL039	BA (H) Italian and Philosophy
			SW	MODL058	BA (H) Spanish and Philosophy

10	**Overview and aims**

This module examines the development of western philosophy through its history. More specifically, it examines the claims of philosophers whose ideas have helped to shape the moral, intellectual and political contours of the contemporary world. Starting with the ideas of the pre-Socratic philosophers in ancient Greece, the module goes on to examine the philosophies of Plato, Aristotle, the Roman Stoics, Thomas Aquinas, Descartes, Hume, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche and Jean-Paul Sartre. The overall aim of the module is to develop an awareness of how the ideas of these philosophers are still positioned at the heart some of the most important in intellectual controversies of our times.

11	Module content

- The Pre-Socratics

- Plato

- Aristotle and the nature of virtue

- Stoicism, Cynicism and Epicureanism

- Mediaeval philosophy, Thomas Aquinas and the rationality of faith

- Renaissance Humanism – Erasmus and Machiavelli

- Descartes: Arguing against the Sceptic.

- Locke, Hume and Empiricism

- The Enlightenment

- Hegel, history and politics

- Marx and the idea revolution.

- Nietzsche and the 'death of God'.

- Sartre and the problem of freedom

- Nihilism and the modern world

- Faust, modernity and modernism

- Philosophy and the problem of historical periodisation

- Postmodern philosophy

12	Indicative reading

Descartes, R. (2008) 'Discourse on Method and the Meditations' New York: Cosimo

Kenny, A. (2006) 'The Rise of Modern Philosophy' Oxford: Clarendon Press

Meyers, R.G. (2006) 'Understanding Empiricism' Stocksfield: Acumen

Santas, G, X. (2010) 'Understanding Plato's Republic' Chichester: Wiley: Blackwell

Wardy, R. (2006) 'Doing Greek Philosophy' London: Routledge

Webber, J. (2011) 'Reading Sartre: On Phenomenology and Existentialism' London: Routledge

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13	**Learning outcomes**

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of the module

Knowledge and understanding. After studying this module you should be able to:

- Show some familiarity with the writings of some of the major classical and modern philosophers

- Describe opposing philosophical positions and offer reasons why one position is more persuasive/important than others in the field

- Show a basic understanding of the key arguments in the history of modern western philosophy

- Analyse some of the central theories in ethics, metaphysics and epistemology

- Apply doctrines from the history of philosophy in order to make sense of contemporary philosophical debates

- Understand the relevance of philosophical ideas and forms of questioning for everyday life.

Skills, qualities and attributes. After studying this module you should be able to:

- Conceive of how to construct a cogent argument in relation to philosophical debates and organise a complex body of information into meaningful prose

- Show an awareness of how generalisations can be supported or weakened by detailed discussion

- Understand the basic sense and significance of philosophical terminology and demonstrate a basic familiarity with the key assumptions underlying

contemporary philosophical debates

- Recognise the contemporary significance of philosophical problems and the arguments for and against their solution

- Begin to interpret texts drawn from a variety of ages and/or traditions with sensitivity to context

- Evaluate, in outline, the success of standard arguments

14	**Teaching and learning**
	Range of modes of direct contact
	This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. lectures, seminars
	Teaching and learning methods will normally consist of a one hour lecture, and a one hour seminar, every week.
	Total contact hours: 52
	Range of other learning methods
	This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research
	Alongside the standard package of lecture / seminar sessions, you will be invited to participate in a number of more independent learning exercises. For example, you will be asked to read chapters and sections from books and articles, and use this as the basis for preparing for seminars as well as the final essay. Reading is an essential learning activity for this module. Additionally, you might be asked to provide an analysis of a social phenomenon or process that you encounter in your everyday life to help you learn to apply complex philosophical ideas to understanding real-world practical situations.
	Total non-contact hours: 148

15	**Assessment methods**			
	This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements in the module			
	Element number	Weighting	Type	Description
	1	70%	Coursework	2000 Word Essay

| 2 | 30% | Coursework | 1000 Word Critical Synopsis |

Diagnostic/formative assessment

This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark

You will be offered opportunities to submit and discuss an essay outline, which will help you develop a feasible approach to the necessary research for the essay as well to improve the structure and content of the writing.

Feedback on specific seminar activities to be given at the start of tutorials

Further information on assessment

This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate

Two assessments –

1.   An essay of 2,000 words – worth 70% of the overall mark
2. A 1000 word critical synopsis of an allocated philosopher – worth 30% of the overall mark

See module handbook and NOW learning room for further information

	Document management	
16	Module Title:	Philosophy: Ancient and Modern
17	Module Code:	PHIL10211
18	Subject (JACS) Code	V500
19	Cost Centre	141
20	School:	AAH
21	Academic Team	ECM
22	Campus	2 (Clifton)
23	Other institutions providing teaching	*Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable*
		Institution	%
23a	Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU		
23b	Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by		

NTU

23c   Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU

23d   Any other Non-UK organisation - Percentage not taught by NTU

24   Date this version was formally approved by SASQC/DAG: