

# Nottingham Trent University

## Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	Philosophy and Media
2	Module Code:	PHIL20609
3	Credit Points:	20
4	Duration:	Half Year
5	School:	Arts and Humanities
6	Campus:	Clifton
7	Date this version first approved to run:	September 2013

### 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

<u>Pre, Co, Post</u>	<u>Module Code</u>	<u>Module Title</u>
Pre	PHIL10111	The Basic Problems of Philosophy
Pre	PHIL10211	Philosophy: Ancient & Modern

### 9 Courses containing the module

<u>Level</u>	<u>Core/Option</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
		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
		FT	EURX002	European Exchange (Second Half Year)
		FT	EURX003	European Exchange (Full Year)

FT	INTX002	International Exchange (Second Half Year)
FT	INTX003	International Exchange (Full Year)

## 10 Overview and aims

This interdisciplinary module aims to view the media philosophically through the lens of everyday life. Its central organising theme is the media's potential to operate as a powerful philosophical tool within an image saturated society, with the capability to transmit, influence and critique dominant ideological norms.

Initially, it explores the mediating function of media texts, for example their role in articulating philosophical ideas in ways that are arguably particular to the visual form. It then goes on to unravel the 'deeper issue' of mediation as a philosophical problem, examining the concept of media, and whether "reality" can only ever be mediated rather than directly perceived?

The module then examines the intersection between the reception of such philosophically transmitted ideas and everyday life, considering, for example, the media's potential influence upon contemporary ideologies. What do these everyday ideologies tell us about philosophy, and vice versa?

Finally, it considers the status of philosophy in relation to everyday media artefacts. Do populist texts illuminate or instead over-simplify complex philosophical ideas?

Ought the processes of democratisation be embraced and philosophical elitism abandoned, or should philosophy remain in the abstract realm and media be limited to illustrational purposes? Such questions have significance for lived identities, forming part of a wider philosophical consideration of what it means to be a sentient, media-consuming subject in what is arguably an increasingly fragmented, and certainly media orientated, society.

## 11 Module content

- the mediating function of media texts
- the 'deeper issue' of mediation as a philosophical problem.
- representation and medium specificity
- the impact of technological change upon 'traditional' modes of representation
- the intersections between philosophy, ideologies and media transmission
- the media's ability to influence philosophical value systems and thus everyday life
- issues of identity, subjectivity and the processes of media/technology democratisation

## 12 Indicative reading

Armitage, J. ed. *Virilio Now: Current Perspectives in Virilio Studies* (London: Polity, 2011)

Baudrillard, J. *Simulacra and Simulation* (Michigan: The University of Michigan Press,

1994)

Debord, G. *The Society of the Spectacle* (London: Rebel Press, 1992)

Hansen, MBN. *New Philosophy for New Media* (London: MIT Press, 2006)

Rancière, J. *The Politics of Aesthetics: The Distribution of the Sensible* (New York: Continuum, 2006)

Taylor, P. A *Zizek and the Media* (London: Polity, 2010)

### 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:

- Draw comparisons between the philosophical specificities of the visual object and other media forms
- Articulate the ways in which media texts may transmit philosophical ideas, such as ethics
- Assess the philosophical significance of media representations in reinforcing and/or critiquing the ideological norms which govern common practice
- Apply doctrines from the history of philosophy in order to make sense of contemporary debates within media and cultural theory
- Appreciate the relevance of philosophical ideas and forms of questioning for the artefacts of everyday life

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

- Work with visual media texts in order to draw out their philosophical elements, both as philosophical object and bearer of meaning
- Demonstrate familiarity with specialised philosophical terminology
- Articulate an appreciation of what it means to 'live a good life' in contemporary social and political contexts
- Identify textually based arguments and subject their structure and implications to rigorous assessment
- Work in a flexible and adaptable manner and be able to manage your time and work effectively and efficiently

### 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

Lectures

Seminars

Tutorials

Total contact hours:	39
<i>Range of other learning methods</i>	
This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research	
Directed reading and self-directed research into relevant areas Independent learning activities, for example media viewing in preparation for classes.	
Total non-contact hours:	161

15	<b>Assessment methods</b>			
This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements in the module				
<u>Element number</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	
1	100%	Coursework	300 Word Essay	
<hr/>				
<b>Diagnostic/formative assessment</b>				
This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark				
Tutorial meetings to discuss essay plan and development of work where appropriate				
<hr/>				
<b>Further information on assessment</b>				
This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate				
See module handbook and NOW learning room for further information				

<b>Document management</b>		
16	Module Title:	Philosophy and Media
17	Module Code:	PHIL20609
18	Subject (JACS) Code	V500
19	Cost Centre	141
20	School:	AAH
21	Academic Team	ECM
22	Campus	2 (Clifton)
23	Other institutions providing	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>

teaching		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:		