

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	Wittgenstein and Heidegger
2	Module Code:	PHIL30208
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

<u>Pre, Co, Post</u>	<u>Module Code</u>	<u>Module Title</u>
Pre	PHIL20107	Introduction to Contemporary Philosophy

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	EURX003	European Exchange (Full Year)
		FT	INTX003	International Exchange (Full Year)

10 Overview and aims

This module introduces you to some of the central problems in contemporary philosophy through an examination of the work of two of the most important philosophers of the twentieth century: Martin Heidegger and Ludwig Wittgenstein. Specific themes covered include the philosophical problem of authenticity and its relationship to modern life; technology, art and nihilism; the relationship between language and ethics as well as the relationship between language and everyday life. The overall aim of the module is to encourage you to question and wonder about your experience of the wider world and to show the extent to which answers to the philosophical questions posed by both these philosophers can change the way we think about ourselves and the world in which we live.

The module also aims to foster an awareness of the relationship between philosophical works and their social and historical contexts, as well as an appreciation of the role and limits of philosophical forms of inquiry in a modern world that seems increasingly dominated by material and economic concerns.

11 Module content

The module consists of two sections: Section A - Heidegger ; Section B – Wittgenstein

The first section on Heidegger begins with a discussion of the relationship between his thought and that of Nietzsche through a discussion of how Heidegger's philosophy was shaped by the problematic of nihilism (of how to find meaning in a Godless universe). Heidegger's controversial relationship the Nazis is also examined in detail and through this the issue of the relationship between philosophical ideas and their historical contexts is addressed. Another central concern of this section is Heidegger's 'Question of Being': the so-called *Seinsfrage* and its relation to his idea of 'fundamental ontology'. The lectures in this section conclude with a series of reflections on the philosophy of the later Heidegger through a detailed analysis of his ideas of art, technology and humanism.

The lectures in the second section begin by addressing questions of meaning and truth in early-Wittgensteinian thought. The nature of logic will be discussed here, especially in relationship to the early Wittgenstein's account of the logic of language. Also discussed is the early Wittgenstein's relationship to Bertrand Russell and Logical Positivism. Particular emphasis in part 2 will be given to the early Wittgenstein's ideas of ethics, especially in relation to his ideas of nonsense, 'the unsayable' and the mystical.

The lectures will then go on to discuss the ideas of the later Wittgenstein through a series of reflections upon his core idea that language is not logical but a tool of social interaction. Particular emphasis will be given to Wittgenstein's ideas of language games, forms of life, seeing-as and 'philosophy as therapy'. The section on Wittgenstein will finish with a discussion of the relationship Wittgenstein, Social Constructionism and the Social Sciences.

12 Indicative reading

- Bernstein, J. (2010) 'The Pragmatic Turn' Cambridge: Polity
- Dreyfus, H. and Hall, H. (eds.) (1992) 'Heidegger: A Critical Reader' Oxford: Blackwell.
- Heidegger, M. (1978) 'Basic Writings' London: Routledge.

- Kenny, A. (2005) 'Wittgenstein' Oxford: Blackwell
- Kripke, S. (1984) 'Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language' Oxford: Blackwell.
- Pasquale, F. (2007) 'Understanding Wittgenstein's Tractatus' London Routledge
- Wittgenstein, L. (1953) 'The Philosophical Investigations' Oxford: Blackwell.
- Wolin, R. (1993) 'The Heidegger Controversy: A Critical Reader' Cambridge Mass: MIT Press.

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:

- Analyse the relationship between the ideas of the two philosophers discussed and situate them within current debates in contemporary philosophy
- Synthesise your understanding across disciplinary boundaries
- Reflect on the relationship between philosophical questions, ethics and everyday life
- Explain the origins and significance of the crisis in philosophy in the twentieth century
- Appreciate the significance of the divide between the analytic and continental traditions in European philosophy.
- Apply doctrines from the history of philosophy in order make sense of contemporary philosophical debates.

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

- Evaluate your own work in a reflexive manner, with reference to philosophical issues, debates and conventions
- Summarize a broad range of philosophical arguments and apply them in a critically informed way to specific problems.
- Evaluate and draw upon a variety of different philosophical sources into reflect upon the nature and purpose of thinking in contemporary society

- Produce work of a given length, format, brief and deadline with properly referencing sources displaying an adequate mastery of the English language appropriate for academic purposes
- Gather, organise, digest and deploy ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively in written, oral or in other forms, including IT-media

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

The module is organised around traditional lectures, but in many instances these lectures will be punctuated with small group discussion. There will also be seminars and small group tutorials that will focus on specific issues addressed in the course. The module consists of two sections (see above).

Total contact hours: 39

Range of other learning methods

This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research

In this module you will be expected to read widely and intensively. In order to help you in this task, the module will provide space for two reading weeks. Prior to each reading week, you will be given booklets and reading with study questions that address particular issues raised during the lectures. As part of your research assignment, you will be expected to use library and electronic information resources.

Total non-contact hours: 161

15 Assessment methods

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>
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1	100%	Coursework	4000 Word Essay
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Diagnostic/formative assessment

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

Participation and engagement in seminar work and workshops on a group and an individual basis

Further information on assessment

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

See module handbook and NOW learning room for further information

Document management

16	Module Title:	Wittgenstein and Heidegger	
17	Module Code:	PHIL30208	
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	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>	
		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:		