

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	Contemporary French Thought
2	Module Code:	PHIL30509
3	Credit Points:	20
4	Duration:	Full Year
5	School:	Arts and Humanities
6	Campus:	Clifton
7	Date this version first approved to run:	September 2014

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 serves to introduce you to some of the highly influential and continually fecund schools of thought that emerged in France during the 20th Century. The module engages with many of the defining concepts of contemporary Continental philosophy, tracking their development out of, and often in problematic relation to, the traditional philosophic discourse within which they arose. At the end of the module you should possess a sophisticated appreciation of the significance of renaissance of western philosophy that began in France in the latter part of the last century.

11 Module content

Vitalism: Ravison, Bergson.

The French Phenomenological Tradition (Sartre, Merleau-Ponty)

Structuralism, Post-structuralism and the 'Linguistic Turn' (Levi-Strauss, Saussure, Lacan, Irigaray, Kristeva, Foucault)

Difference and Deconstruction (Lyotard, Deleuze, Derrida)

Post-Phenomenology (Derrida and Levinas)

After Difference (Badiou, Ranciere and others)

12 Indicative reading

The module will utilise a number of primary texts but the following titles provide useful general and introductory reading:

Badiou, A., (2012). *The Adventure of French Philosophy*. London: Verso.

Bennington G & Derrida J (1991) *Jacques Derrida*, Chicago: London: University of Chicago Press

Caputo, J.D (1997) *Deconstruction in a Nutshell*, New York: Fordham UP

Gutting, G., (2012). *Thinking the Impossible: French Philosophy Since 1960*. Oxford: Oxford U.P.

Moran D (2000) *Introduction to Phenomenology*, London: New York: Routledge

Schrift, A (2005) *Twentieth Century French Philosophy: Key Themes and Thinkers*, Oxford: Blackwell.

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:

- Exhibit a comparative and critical knowledge and understanding of contemporary French thought;

- Critically and comparatively analyse the philosophical positions developed by the stated schools/thinkers;
- Critically evaluate the contribution made to philosophical discourse by the stated schools and thinkers
- Apply doctrines from the history of philosophy in order make sense of contemporary philosophical debates
- Demonstrate competence in a broad range of philosophical techniques – such as detecting fallacious reasoning, rhetorical excess and superficial and vague thinking
- Assess the virtues and the limitations of other disciplines whilst being sensitive and empathic to a variety of opinions, practices and ways of life.

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

- Understand, plan and apply appropriate reading methods and techniques;
- Express yourself with confidence and communicate module specific knowledge and understanding effectively across differing communicative scenarios;
- Demonstrate a capacity for independent critical thought which builds upon the basic cognitive skills and leads towards higher order analysis, synthesis and critical evaluation;
- Evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions to reach sound judgements through rational enquiry and self-directed learning.
- Consider unfamiliar ideas and ways of thinking, and to examine critically pre-suppositions and methods within the discipline itself

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 and 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 research is required in preparation for classes. You may also be asked to prepare short seminar presentations or to work in groups. More generally, you are required to read and research widely to both extend your knowledge/understanding and as preparation for completion of assignments. You should plan to spend 5/6 hours per week on directed and independent learning 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>
1	100%	Coursework	4000 Word Essay
Diagnostic/formative assessment			
This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark			
Tutorials and seminars will provide formative feedback. Summative and formative feedback on coursework.			
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:	Contemporary French Thought
17	Module Code:	PHIL30509
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:		