

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	Social and Political Philosophy
2	Module Code:	PHIL31213
3	Credit Points:	20
4	Duration:	Year Long
5	School:	Arts and Humanities
6	Campus:	Clifton
7	Date this version first approved to run:	April 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	INTX001	International Exchange (First Half Year)

10 Overview and aims

This module will introduce you to some of key issues in contemporary social and political philosophy. Its central focus is on the question of how we are to understand the nature and dynamics of contemporary society in philosophical terms.

In this regard, specific reference will be made to the nature of the social bond and the processes underlying human history; the origins of socialism and the idea of class struggle; the rise of fascism and its wider intellectual consequences; the nature of contemporary political processes; the recent emergence of religious fundamentalisms; the relationship globalisation and cosmopolitanism; the philosophical status of eastern philosophy as well as the increasing role that science and new technologies play in shaping the contours of the contemporary social world. At the end of the module, you will understand why contemporary social and cultural change has been a central concern to recent social philosophers and appreciate why a new generation of philosophers have claimed that such changes herald the emergence of a new, 'post-modern', form of society.

11 Module content

The nature of modernity; the Enlightenment project and its critics. Hegel as a social philosopher. Reason, rationalisation and modernity; the ideas of Weber and the Frankfurt school. Fascism, totalitarianism and their philosophical significance. The assault on modernity; the sixties counter-culture and after. Post-modernism, aestheticisation and populism. Technology and social change. Post-modernity, cosmopolitanism and hybridisation. Technology and Post-Modern condition. Orientalism and the philosophical status of eastern philosophy with specific reference to Buddhism.

12 Indicative reading

Adamson, G. and Pavitt, J. (2011) 'Postmodernism: Style and Subversion: 1970-90' London: V & A.

Arendt, H. (2006) 'Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil' New York: Penguin Books

Berman, M. (1986) 'All That is Solid Melts into Air' London: Verso 1986.

Bauman, Z. (1997) 'Post-Modernity and its Discontents' Oxford Polity.

Bronner, S.E. (2011) 'Critical Theory: A Very Short Introduction' New York: Oxford University Press

Harvey, D. (1989) 'The Condition of Post-Modernity' Oxford: Blackwell

Held, D. (2010) 'Cosmopolitanism: Ideals and Realities' Cambridge: Polity

Hobsbaum, E.J. (2011) 'How to Change the World: Marx and Marxism, 1840-2011' London: Little Brown

Jenks, C. (1996) 'What is Post-Modernism?' London: Academy

Lemert, C. (1997) 'Postmodernism Is Not What You Think' Oxford: Blackwell 1997.

Westphal, K.R. (2009) 'The Blackwell Guide to Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit' Oxford: Wiley 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:

- Evaluate the nature and significance of contemporary social and cultural change and critically evaluate those social theories that claim to account for these changes.
- Understand the meaning of the term 'post-modernity'
- Critically evaluate the validity of theories that herald the emergence of a post-modern society
- Assess the significance of the writings of some of the major classical and modern philosophers
- Apply techniques of philosophical reasoning and analysis
- Synthesise the ideas of opposing philosophical positions
- Understand the key arguments in the history of modern western philosophy

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

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

Understand the sense and significance of philosophical terminology

Engage in debate about philosophical issues without recourse to insult or susceptibility to take offence.

Manage your time and organise your work effectively

Identify the key assumptions underlying contemporary philosophical and other intellectual debates (B)

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

Read carefully and interpret texts drawn from a variety of ages and/or traditions with sensitivity to context (B)

14 Teaching and learning

<p><i>Range of modes of direct contact</i></p> <p>This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. lectures, seminars</p>	
<p>Lectures</p> <p>Seminars</p> <p>Presentations by Visiting Speaker</p> <p>Total contact hours: 52</p>	
<p><i>Range of other learning methods</i></p> <p>This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research</p>	
<p>Total non-contact hours: 148</p>	

<p>15 Assessment methods</p> <p>This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements in the module</p>	
<u>Element number</u>	<u>Weighting</u> <u>Type</u> <u>Description</u>
1	100% Coursework 4000 Word Essay
<p>Diagnostic/formative assessment</p> <p>This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark</p>	
<p>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.</p> <p>Participation and engagement in seminar work and workshops on a group and an individual basis.</p>	
<p>Further information on assessment</p> <p>This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate</p>	

See module handbook and NOW learning room for further information

Document management

16	Module Title:	Social and Political Philosophy	
17	Module Code:	PHIL31213	
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:		