

Module code: MOD007278	Version: 3 Date Amended: 30/Oct/2023
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1. Module Title
Communication, Flesh, Philosophy

2a. Module Leader
Patricia MacCormack

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

In this module you will focus on language as a symbolic system and practice where meaning is produced and reproduced under specific cultural conditions and is characterised by fragmentation and conflict as much as by cohesion and consensus. You will relate the study of language to issues concerning, for example, identity, cultural power and domination, representation, and real life, examining the social corpus, the individual body and the radical/transgressive body. You will explore post-structuralist critiques of linguistics, which may include theories of language as a means by which identity is produced through the interconnectedness of language and ideology. In addition, you will encounter the physical body not as 'natural' but as a linguistic phenomenon: where the body is a text to be read. Challenging binaries such as mind/body and biological/textual, you will query the role of language in creating bodies and the ways in which the flesh has been historically created through discourse. You will also look at the ways the body has transgressed these discourses. In examining the relationships between language, power and bodies, you will explore the links between language, power, knowledge, 'truth' and identity, especially in reference to difference (gender, race, sexuality, ability) and extend these links to ecological concerns and the connectedness of the human to the nonhuman and nature. You will learn to question how truth and knowledge are challenged in post-structuralist/ deconstructionist projects, and how this challenge can lead to what is known as posthuman ethics and the ecological revolution: currently known in linguistic philosophy as 'ecosophy'.

6b. Outline Content

- Language and subjectivity, discursive formations and regimes of 'truth', the production and commodification of 'knowledge' in the social corpus.
- The body as text.
- Deconstruction of the structure of language and logic, epistemes of power, language as reflecting dominant subjects, the critique of binary oppositional hierarchies.
- Critique of accounts where language and subjectivity come to be welded to a variety of theoretical language-body concepts, including state, criminal justice, mental health and family.
- The corporeal language of the transgressive body in art, poetry and film.
- Language that is considered unspeakable, addressing the unspeakability of genocide, environmental issues, the sublime and the politically 'justified'.
- Languages of non-dominant subjects and groups.
- The animal, the human parasite and the natural ecological contract.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate critical, systematic and detailed understanding of a range of key theoretical and methodological approaches to the poststructural study of language in relation to its use in discourse and systems of 'truth' and 'knowledge'.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically analyse ways in which the body can be said to be created through discourse and can be interpreted as a text to be read, and related issues of control, dominance and oppression.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Undertake close reading and analysis of theoretical texts, identifying and engaging critically with the various rhetorical strategies by which such texts make claims of truth about individual and collective bodies, and apply these to historical and contemporary issues and events.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Evaluate lines of argumentation, identifying hidden agendas, assumptions and bias in the relationship between discourse and experience, ethics and bodies, and express this evaluation through well-argued and researched written work and presentations to peers.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	12	1-4	Weekly 1 hour lecture
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-4	Weekly 1 hour seminar
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Preparatory readings, further research, preparation of presentations and essays
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1-2	0 (%)	Pass/Fail	100 (%)
Supporting task 500 words in the form of an oral presentation					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	3-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Essay 2500 words					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]