Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007286	**Version:** 3 **Date Amended:** 27/Jan/2025

1. Module Title
Introduction to Philosophy: The Big Questions

2a. Module Leader
Michael Wilby

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

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

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

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

This module provides an introduction to the study of Philosophy at degree level, and encourages you to explore some of the 'big' questions: the existence of God; the nature of Knowledge; the nature of Time; the nature of the Self; Free Will; the Mind, and the nature of ethical deliberation. You be actively involved in discussing and debating some of the key arguments about these questions through the study of contemporary philosophical work in this area. You will also develop some key degree-level skills. These skills include: a) Learning about the structure and 'logic' of argumentation (Critical Thinking); b) Learning about how to engage in independent and reliable research (Working in the Knowledge Economy) and c) Learning how to structure and prepare essays and assignments (Content Curation).

There will be corresponding interactive workshops to help structure and develop your skills in these areas. You will get the opportunity to develop your writing and presentational skills, as well as gaining knowledge and understanding of the foundational issues in contemporary philosophy. This module will help you to become adaptable, flexible and analytical in your thinking, and to strengthen skills in developing creative approaches to problems.

6b. Outline Content

- Logic and Critical Thinking
- Epistemology
- Metaphysics
- Value Theory

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy.

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	Understand key ideas and arguments in contemporary philosophy.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically assess philosophical arguments, and develop an understanding of how and in what ways arguments can be critically evaluated effectively.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify and contextualise the philosophical ideas of key thinkers (both contemporary and historical).
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop skills at articulating complex ideas clearly and for a general audience.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop skills at organising and structuring degree-level essays.
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Engage in problem-solving through dialogue and discussion.

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	36	1-6	3 hour weekly lecture/seminars
Other teacher managed learning	0	0	N/A
Student managed learning	264	1-6	Structured tasks in Canvas, group work tasks, reading and researching for assignments
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1,2,5	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
In-class test (50 minutes) - equivalent to 1,500 words					
Assessment No.	**Assessment Method**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Weighting (%)**	**Fine Grade or Pass/Fail**	**Qualifying Mark (%)**
011	Coursework	1,2,4,6	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Report - 1,500 words					
Assessment No.	**Assessment Method**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Weighting (%)**	**Fine Grade or Pass/Fail**	**Qualifying Mark (%)**
012	Coursework	1-5	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Essay - 2,500 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]