Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007354	**Version:** 2 **Date Amended:** 04/Mar/2025

1. Module Title
Knowledge and Doubt: From Antiquity to the Digital Age

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
6

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 is designed to allow you to understand and compare different philosophical approaches to epistemology (the study of knowledge) by looking at how they deal with the foundational philosophical topic of Scepticism. You will see how Scepticism arises throughout the history of thought, from the Ancient Greece and Ancient India to the present day, and how it shapes whole philosophical systems and world-views, often taking hold at times of great philosophical and political change. Beginning with scepticism in Ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, and then in its rediscovery in the 16th/17th Centuries we look at how different philosophical schools of thought attempted to answer the problem of scepticism. We will discuss scepticism in relation to empiricism, common sense, scientific naturalism, virtual reality, Wittgenstein's therapeutic method of philosophy, the philosophy of mind, feminism, Buddhism, and the philosophy of language. We also consider the re-emergence of the challenge of scepticism in relation to contemporary media, 'fake' news' and conspiracy theories. This module is part of a core strand of the Philosophy curriculum at Anglia Ruskin, which looks at issues of relevance to contemporary Anglo-American Philosophy. It will build on topics discussed in Mind and Consciousness and Introduction to Philosophy: The Big Questions, as well as allowing you to understand how the philosophers and ideas discussed in previous modules such as Happiness and the Good Life, and Philosophical Texts relate to contemporary research in this area. This module has been designed to support you in further developing key transferable skills of critical analysis and complex problem solving as well as the high-level ability to undertake scholarly research and complete a project to a deadline. The presentation will enable you to further develop skills of public speaking, creating professional public presentations, and teamwork.

6b. Outline Content

- Ancient Greek Philosophy
- Ancient Indian (Buddhist) Philosophy
- Early Modern Thought
- Common Sense Philosophy
- Wittgenstein's Philosophy
- Feminist 'Standpoint' Epistemology
- Simulations and Virtual Realities
- Naturalism
- Philosophy of Mind and Language

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 and evaluate the reasoning by which sceptical doubts arise in philosophical thought.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand and evaluate the major historical and contemporary responses to scepticism.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Assess the extent to which sceptical doubts could and should impinge on everyday life.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically analyse, and judge the effectiveness of, ideas and solutions to complex problems.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply abstract philosophical arguments to concrete problems and issues in contemporary life (the Media, Conspiracy Theories, Religious Belief).
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Work as part of a small team to produce a presentation and report to a deadline.

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	33	1-5	Weekly Classes, Weeks 1-11.
Other teacher managed learning	4	1-5	Essay Workshops Weeks 6 and 12.
Student managed learning	263	1-6	Range of Activities and Readings on Canvas, research and group work in preparation for assessments.
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	1-5	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Essay 2000 Words					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-5	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Essay 3000 Words					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
012	Coursework	1-6	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Report 1000 Words and Presentation					

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]