

PIU11013 | Topics in Philosophy IIA

Credits:	5 ECTS
Contact Hours:	22 Lectures (students shall also meet for weekly tutorials with departmental teaching assistants).
Pre-requisite:	N/A
Semester:	Michaelmas
Module Leader:	Dr Adrian Downey
E-mail:	downeyad@tcd.ie
Room Number:	5006
Office Hours:	TBC
Lecturer(s):	
Contact E-mail:	alweissa@tcd.ie
Room Number:	
Office Hours:	TBC

Consciousness

Module Outline:

During this part of the course, we shall gain an understanding of the state of the art in the philosophy and science of consciousness via close engagement with Anil Seth's *Being You: A New Science of Consciousness*. Topics encountered will include: the metaphysics of consciousness; how perception works; predictive processing; the nature of the self; and, the prospects of creating machine consciousness.

Learning Outcomes:

By this component's end, students will have learned:

- The pros and cons of various philosophical and scientific approaches toward the study of consciousness and, by extension, a variety of 'hot button' topics in the philosophy of mind.
- How to go about appraising and critically assessing said approaches.

Recommended Reading List

As advised/circulated by lecturer during the lecture series.

Death

Module Outline:

There is no doubt as soon 'as we are born, we are old enough to die.' Death is something that can occur at any moment. Yet while there is no way to deny this, the question I would like to explore in this course is what we are to make of that fact. We shall examine a number of issues that arise once we reflect on our mortality. Many see death as an evil that needs to be overcome. Either it is questioned whether death really points to an absolute end, or the argument is that the ultimate aim of life is to achieve immortality. The course will ask whether death is something we should try to overcome and indeed whether immortality is something desirable. We shall look at a selection of texts possibly – among others- the epic of Gilgamesh and texts by Epicurus, Plato, Nagel, Williams, Freud, Kierkegaard and Heidegger.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students will have learned:

- to read philosophical texts critically through the identification of arguments that inform our lives
- to present and evaluate philosophical arguments

Recommended Reading List:

Recommended Text:

- Gilgamesh (2750BCE): a new English Version by Stephen Mitchell Profile Books 2004
- Plato: Phaedo
- Plato: The Trial and Death of Socrates

A complete reading list will be posted on blackboard.

Assessment

Coursework: 1 essay from EITHER Component 1 OR Component 2 - 50%

(Essays must not exceed 1,500 words in length. The word count includes footnotes but it does not include the bibliography. Essays that go over the limit will be liable for a 5 mark deduction.)

Examination: 1 examination question (1 hour) for the component for which an essay was not submitted - 50%

Important Note: For this module, students must not attempt to answer an examination question for the same component as that for which they have submitted an essay. To do so is to be liable to be penalised by 10 marks for the examination question attempted.