

PIU22011 | History of Western Philosophy II

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| Credits: | 5 ECTS |
| Contact Hours: | 22 hours of lectures Students also meet for weekly tutorials with departmental teaching assistants. |
| Pre-requisite: | none |
| Semester: | Michaelmas |
| Module Leader: | Dr Lilian Alweiss |
| Contact E-mail: | alweissl@tcd.ie |
| Room Number: | 5007 |
| Office Hours: | |
| Lecturer(s): | Professor Vasilis Politis |
| Contact E-mail: | vpolitis@tcd.ie |
| Room Number: | Plato Centre (1937 Building) |
| Office Hours: | |

Module Outline:

The course is divided into two parts.

Component 1: Kant: Epistemology and Metaphysics (Prof. Lilian Alweiss)

The first part of the module will introduce you to Kant's theoretical philosophy as articulated in the *Critique of Pure Reason*. The course will focus primarily, but not exclusively, on topics from the first half of the book, and will examine core topics such as the Copernican Turn, Kant's doctrine of transcendental idealism, the analytic/synthetic distinction, the nature of space, the problem of causation and the response to Humean scepticism, and Kant's theory of the self.

The course will aim to show the centrality of Kant's thought both to an understanding of the development of the history of philosophy and as a source of philosophical interest for contemporary epistemology and metaphysics.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this part of the module students will:

- Be able to read and engage critically with the primary text
- Understand the significance of Kant's Copernican Turn in philosophy
- Be able to identify and frame epistemological and metaphysical questions within the Kantian framework

Recommended Reading List

Set Text:

- Immanuel Kant: *The Critique of Pure Reason*, translated by Kemp Smith, Macmillan.

Recommended Commentary

- * Sebastian Gardner *Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*, Routledge. (short and good introduction). London/NY: Routledge,
- * Georges Dicker. *Kant's Theory of Knowledge*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- * O'Shea, *Kant's Critique of Pure Reason* Acumen, 2012
- * Körner: *Kant*, Penguin Books 1955
- * Henry A Allison: *Kant's Transcendental Idealism: An Interpretation and Defense*. New Haven: Yale University Press revised edition 2004.

A complete reading list will be posted on blackboard.

Component 2: Nietzsche (Professor Vasilis Politis):

The aim of these lectures is to provide an introduction to Nietzsche, concentrating on selections from two of his works: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (esp. sections 1-10) and *Beyond Good and Evil*. We begin with *Zarathustra* and concentrate on the theme of self-formation and self-transformation.

We turn to a variety of themes from *Beyond Good and Evil*: Nietzsche's aporetic method in philosophy. The critique of the idea of the pure good and of the possibility to give an account of what good is. The idea of the inextricable mixture of good and bad. The idea of going beyond good and evil. Love. The distinction between the noble and the slavish mindset. Nietzsche's ambivalent attitude to Plato/Platonism

and Christ/Christianity. Nietzsche contra Kantian, consequentialist and liberalist ethics

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this module, students will have a critical knowledge of central themes in Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil* (see descriptor).

Recommended Reading List

Set Text:

- Friedrich Nietzsche: *Beyond Good and Evil*.

Recommended Background Reading

- A. Nehamas, *Nietzsche. Life as Literature*

Assessment for this Module:

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

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