

PIP77031 — Modern European Philosophy

Module Information	
Module Code	PIP77031
Module Title	Universalism AND Pluralism
Department	Philosophy
Module Personnel	Dr Lilian Alweiss
Academic Year	2026–27
Credit Weighting	10 credits
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	2 lectures per week

Module Content	
Module Description	The aim of this course is to examine the problem of the lifeworld as developed by Husserl in his final major work, <i>The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology</i>. From its inception, phenomenology maintains that philosophical inquiry must begin from the first-person perspective. In his later thought, Husserl increasingly emphasizes how this perspective is culturally, socially, and historically situated within what he calls the <i>lifeworld</i> (<i>Lebenswelt</i>). At the same time, Husserl argues that the plurality of different lifeworlds is grounded in one and the same Lifeworld. Yet because this unifying world is itself a lifeworld, it also bears the marks of cultural and historical differences. It is therefore both one and many: a shared horizon that unifies human experience while remaining internally plural. The course explores how Husserl thereby challenges the assumption that universality and plurality stand in opposition to one another. Rather than treating the one and the many as mutually exclusive it suggests that we need to think their relation in a “new” way. To clarify this position, we shall draw

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	on the philosophies of Parmenides and Heraclitus moreover we shall discuss how this position can inform debates concerning political pluralism.
Module Learning Aims	
Learning Outcomes	• Articulate the tension between universality and particularity • Relate Parmenides and Heraclitus' discussion of the one and the many to Husserl's account of the lifeworld • Apply phenomenological concepts to contemporary debates on political pluralism, • Engage in close textual analysis
Indicative Reading / Resources	Key text will be: Edmund Husserl <i>The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology</i> . Translated by D. Carr. Evanston: Northwestern University Press 1970

Assessment	
Assessment Components	Essay 100%
Assessment Details	None

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	'None'
Co-requisites	'None'
Any other information	In this module, the use of Generative AI is prohibited in any form for the planning, preparation, and production of either your coursework essay(s), or exam question(s). This includes the use of Generative AI for brainstorming, research/learning assistance, writing assistance, or the inclusion of material/content generated directly or indirectly by such AI. You will be asked to declare in a coversheet that you have not used AI for these or any other purposes related to the production of your coursework essay(s) at the time of submission