



Topics in Philosophy II A | PIU11013

Year	Junior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Professor Lilian Alweiss and Dr Adrian Downey
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Module Outline:

Component one: Consciousness (Dr Adrian Downey)

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.

Component two: Death (Prof Lilian Alweiss)

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.

Assessment:

- 1 essay worth 50% of module
- 1 (1 hour) examination worth 50% of module

You have to submit ONE essay for this course and answer ONE question in the exam. If you submit an essay for component ONE you have to do the exam on Component TWO and vice versa



Recommended Reading List:

Component 1:

- *Consciousness*, Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy (<https://iep.utm.edu/consciousness/>)
- *Neuroscience of Consciousness*, Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

Component 2:

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

An extensive and detailed reading list will be made available at the start of each module component.