

PIU22073 — History of Philosophy II A

Module Information	
Module Code	PIU22073
Module Title	History of Philosophy II A
Department	Philosophy
Year Group	Senior Freshman
Module Personnel	Dr. Farbod Akhlaghi (Module Leader) & Prof. Lilian Alweiss
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5 ECTS
Semester	1
Contact Hours	22 hours (2 lectures per week)

Module Content	
Module Description	This module consists of two Components: Component 1 – Kant: Epistemology and Metaphysics (Prof Lilian Alweiss) This course will introduce you to Kant’s theoretical philosophy, as articulated in the <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>. 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.

	Component 2 – Classical Islamic Philosophy from Al-Kindi to Averroes (Dr Farbod Akhlaghi) From around the 9th to the 12th century CE, the Islamic world was one of the world's major centres of philosophical activity. The aim of these lectures is to introduce you to the philosophy of this Classical Islamic period. These philosophers engaged in important, novel work that informed much of the philosophy that followed, especially in the medieval Christian world. They tackled topics as varied as the justification of belief, the nature of prophecy, and the metaphysics of modality, to ethical problems and debate over the ideal political state. We will undertake a journey together through the work of several Persian and Arab philosophers from Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Avicenna (Ibn Sina), Al-Ghazali, to Averroes (Ibn Rushd). Throughout, we will also explore their connections to several philosophical debates today.
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of Component One of this module, students will be able to: • Read and engage critically with the primary text; • Understand the significance of Kant's Copernican Turn in philosophy; • Identify and frame metaphysical questions within the Kantian framework; • Understand key concepts in Kant's CPR; • Form a reasoned view of Kant's critique of Hume and traditional metaphysics.

	On successful completion of Component Two of this module, students will be able to: • Read and engage critically with a range of issues engaged with by Classical Islamic philosophers; • Understand the significance of the work of several Classical Islamic philosophers, both for their time and for contemporary philosophy; • Identify and discuss the views of several philosophers of the Classical Islamic period; • Understand the key concepts and debates that dominated Classical Islamic philosophy; • Form a reasoned view of the work of at least one of the five key figures in Classical Islamic philosophy covered in this module.
Indicative Reading / Resources	The Set Text for Component One is: Immanuel Kant: <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>, translated by Kemp Smith, Macmillan. (you can use other translations if you so wish) You may wish to consult additionally: • Sebastian Gardner <i>Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason</i>, Routledge. (short and good introduction) • Georges Dicker: <i>Kant's Theory of Knowledge</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. • James O'Shea: <i>Kant's Critique of Pure Reason</i> Acumen, 2012. The Textbook for Component Two is:

	- Booth, Anthony Robert. (2017). <i>Analytic Islamic Philosophy</i>. London: Palgrave Macmillan. For helpful preparatory reading, see: - Adamson, Peter. (2015). <i>Philosophy in the Islamic World: A Very Short Introduction</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press. And for helpful translations of several key texts from this period, see: - Acar, Rahim. & Cüneyt Kaya, M. (2025). <i>Philosophy of Religion in Islam: A Reader of Classical Sources</i>. London: Bloomsbury Academic. - Khalidi, Muhammed. (2010). <i>Medieval Islamic Philosophical Writings</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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Assessment	
Assessment Components	One Essay (30%) and One Exam (70%).
Assessment Details	Students choose the Component on which to write their essay and write their exam question on the other one.

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

Additional Information

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) when submitting.