

PIU22991— History, Philosophy and Ethics of Science 1

Module Information	
Module Code	PIU22991
Module Title	History, Philosophy and Ethics of Science
Department	Philosophy
Year Group	Senior Freshman
Module Personnel	Dr. Alison Fernandes
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5 ECTS
Semester	1
Contact Hours	2 x 1-hour lectures per week; 1 tutorial per week (10 weeks)

Module Content	
Module Description	Science looks to be our best hope of discovering the way the world is. We use it to predict climate change, map the human genome and identify the Higgs boson. Science seems to give us an objective view of the world. How does it manage to do this? Does it succeed in its aims? Insofar as science is successful, can we rely on it to solve our problems? This course will examine the workings of science through four core topics: what is science and the scientific method, the unity of science, ethical conduct in science and ethical issues that arise in addressing climate change.
Module Learning Aims	The aim of this module is to provide students with subject specific knowledge and to equip them with the necessary skills for research.
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to: • Think critically about the historical, philosophical, and ethical dimensions of science. • Reflect on the aims and methods of science, in ways that facilitate ongoing exploration of scientific practice. • Demonstrate awareness of competing ethical demands that arise in scientific practice and of the role

Module Content

	of scientists, individuals and communities in promoting ethical standards. • Communicate their ideas effectively to others in writing using clear and precise language. • Engage in reasoned debate in classroom and lecture settings.
Indicative Reading / Resources	See Blackboard.

Assessment

Assessment Components	2 Written assignments, Exam, 7 Discussion posts and Attendance at tutorials.
Assessment Details	2 Written assignments of 500 words (1–2 pages) (30% total; 15% each) 1 hr end of term in person exam (50%) 7 Discussion posts (10%) Attendance at tutorials (10%)

Additional Information

Prerequisites	None.
Co-requisites	None.