

PIU44211 — Contemporary Idealism

Module Information	
Module Code	PIU44211
Module Title	Contemporary Idealism
Department	Philosophy
Year Group	Senior Sophister
Module Personnel	Jade Hadley
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	10 ECTS
Semester	1
Contact Hours	22

Module Content	
Module Description	Idealism encompasses a range of metaphysical views which treat the mental as somehow prior to, or more fundamental than, the physical. It is common these days to hear idealism spoken of as a movement that happened in the 18th and 19th centuries, suggesting that this tradition is now over. Yet, while idealism is certainly no longer the dominant view in Western philosophy, it is by no means dead. In this course, we will look at recent contemporary arguments both in support of and against various versions of idealism. We will also consider some genuinely novel idealist positions that have been developed in the 21st century.
Module Learning Aims	This module will provide an overview of contemporary work on idealism.
Learning Outcomes	Students will become familiar with some key contemporary developments in idealism, including the recent idealist positions defended by Thomas Hofweber and Richard Gaskin. Some of the arguments we look at will be quite complicated, drawing on nuanced concepts in the philosophy of language. This will offer a great opportunity for students to develop the
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	intellectual patience required to unpack and engage with intricate material.
Indicative Reading / Resources	Readings will be made available at the start of the term. However, to get a sense of what we will cover, I would recommend taking a cursory look at the following: - Hofweber, Thomas (2019). 'Idealism and the Harmony of Thought and Reality'. <i>Mind</i> 128 (511): 699-734. - Gaskin, Richard (2019). 'From The Unity of The Proposition to Linguistic Idealism'. <i>Synthese</i> 196 (4): 1325-1342.

Assessment	
Assessment Components	1 essay (50%) 1 exam (50%)
Assessment Details	- 4,000-word essay to be written during term. - In-person end of term exam comprising 2 questions of approximately 1,000 words each.

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	None.
Co-requisites	None.