



Topics in Philosophy II B | PIU11042

Year	Junior Freshman
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	27 (22 hours of lectures; 5 hours of tutorials)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Adrian Downey
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Module Outline:

Component 1: Scientific Methodology

In this component of the module we shall encounter a range of core ideas in the philosophy of science— concerning things like how does science operate in practice, the nature of scientific explanation, the role of values in science, how and when theory-change occurs, and so on— by countenancing the question ‘what, if anything, is the methodology of science?’.

Component 2: Embodied Cognition

In this component of the module students will get to grips with the basics of Embodied Cognition, a (relatively) new research programme in the philosophy and cognitive science of mind which has broached excitement and controversy in equal measure. Topics covered shall include: how traditional cognitive science has/does proceed; the commitments of research programmes intermediate between traditional and embodied cognitive science; and, why proponents of embodied cognition take the body and/or environment to be constitutive of mind, and whether they are well-advised to do so.

Assessment:

2 Essays (one from each component) 50%:

1 Examination (two exam answers in total, one per module component) 50%.

Recommended Reading List:

An extensive and detailed reading list will be made available at the start of the module. As preparatory background reading, the following resources will be useful:

- *Philosophy of Science*, Philip Kitcher (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/philosophy-of-science>)
- *Embodied Cognition*, Monica Cowart (<https://iep.utm.edu/embodied-cognition/>)