

Post-Kantian Philosophy | PIU44094

Year	Senior Sophister
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Professor Lilian Alweiss
Contact Email	alweissl@tcd.ie

Module Outline:

In Search of the Self

There are broadly three dominant ways of accounting for the self. The first group are the no-self theorists who question the existence of the self because we cannot be introspectively aware of ourselves as objects in the world. The second group are the “Oxford Naturalists” and phenomenologists who claim that the self is *not* elusive because it is essentially embodied and thus part of the objective order of the world. The third group are the idealist who argue that the self is never part of the world but this does question our sense of self.

The aim of this course is to look at these three positions and assess their merits and shortcomings. Questions we shall address:

- Does being conscious necessarily involve being self-conscious in some sense? And if it does, would this count as evidence for the existence of a self?
- Does self-self-consciousness necessarily entail proprioceptive and kinaesthetic awareness? And if it does, is this sufficient evidence for the existence of a self?
- Why do we regard an appeal to a self, necessary? It explains the 1) diachronic nature of experience 2) distinction between self and others.
- What or who is this self whose possible engagement in consciousness and self—consciousness we are debating? Is it 1) an illusion 2) something substantial 3) something insubstantial?

Assessment:

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



Recommended Reading List:

An extensive and detailed reading list will be made available at the start of the module. But among the essential readings for the early weeks of the course will be

- Anscombe: The First Person in *Self-Knowledge* ed Quassim Cassam OUP 1994 (on blackboard).
- Ludwig Wittgenstein: *Extracts entitled: 'The First Person'* from A Kenny: The Wittgenstein Reader Blackwell 2006 Chapter 11.
- Gareth Evans: 'Self-Identification' and Appendix to Chapter 7 in *Varieties of Reference*. Clarendon Press. Oxford.1962.