



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTOR

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Unit title	Philosophy and Christian Worldview
Unit code	176 (8176 for distance learning delivery)
Credit rating	10
Level	4
Contact hours	24 (n/a for distance learning delivery)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a
School responsible	Spurgeon's College with School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
Member of staff responsible	Dr Joshua T. Searle
ECT	5
Notional hours of learning	100

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

Philosophy, as this unit will demonstrate, is not just a dry academic discipline. Philosophy is the term that describes the way you think not only about God, but about life's ultimate questions, such as: What's the meaning of life? Why am I here? What do I really believe in? What do I hope for? What are my values? Who am I? Everyone has a philosophy of life, whether they are aware of it or not. This unit encourages students to discover the rich life-giving, life-enhancing treasures of the philosophical tradition and to understand philosophical ideas and their relationship to biblical teachings. This unit thus introduces students to the skills and ideas that are essential to philosophical enquiry and gives students an overview of key themes, issues and ideas in the classical Western philosophical tradition from Socrates to Descartes. Through critical interaction with intellectual ideas that have shaped the philosophical tradition, this unit challenges students to engage with philosophical ideas concerning goodness, truth and beauty from a Christian point of departure.

AIMS

To introduce students to a selection of leading thinkers in the classical Western philosophical tradition and to equip students with critical tools to reflect deeply on the issues of goodness, truth and beauty from a Christian perspective. The unit also aims to acquaint students with philosophical concepts and basic principles of logic in such a way as to develop their critical thinking skills.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Category of outcome	By the end of this unit students should be able to:
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify and understand the meaning of key concepts and terms in philosophy (such as epistemology, hermeneutics, ontology and metaphysics)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate a basic understanding of epistemological, ethical and aesthetic theories recognise and distinguish between valid and invalid arguments
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> compare and contrast differing views on major philosophical ideas critically assess a variety of classical philosophical texts and their contribution to the philosophical tradition
Practical and transferable skills; personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify instances of good and poor reasoning in texts interact with complex texts with skill, precision and critical insight make informed personal judgements on philosophical positions

ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 176: An essay plan with formative feedback 8176: An essay 	250 words 2000 words	n/a n/a
Summative:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 176: An essay 8176: An essay and a learning journal 	2000 words 2000 words	pass / fail 100% 100% pass / fail

FURTHER INFORMATION

Semester	
Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What is a Christian Worldview? The Central Questions of Philosophy Logic Epistemology Aesthetics Greek Philosophy 1: Socrates and Plato Greek Philosophy 2: Aristotle Roman philosophy: Stoicism and Neo-Platonism St Augustine and the Problem of Suffering Philosophical Proofs of God's Existence
Teaching method	Interactive Lectures
Additional eLearning content	Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's <i>Online</i> to support student learning
Feedback	Written feedback within 15 working days from submission
Date of approval (for office use)	
Information updated on	February 2021

FURTHER INFORMATION

Semester	
Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology

INDICATIVE READING

- Anderson, T. J. et al., *An Introduction to Christian Worldview Pursuing God's Perspective In A Pluralistic World* (Leicester: IVP, 2017) (click [HERE](#))
- Bartholomew and Gohreen, *Christian Philosophy: A Systematic and Narrative Introduction* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2013) (click [HERE](#))
- Coetzee, P.H., *The African Philosophy Reader* (London: Taylor and Francis, 2004) (click [HERE](#))
- Edwards, M., *The Routledge Handbook of Early Christian Philosophy* (London: Taylor and Francis, 2020) (click [HERE](#))
- Gaarder, J., *Sophie's World* (London: Orion, 2000) – try to buy this book, if you can
- McGrade, A.S., *Cambridge Companion to Medieval Philosophy* (CUP, 2003)
- Plato, *The Republic* (Altenmuenster, Jazzybee Verlag, 2018) (For the text itself, click [HERE](#). For the commentary/study guide, click [HERE](#))
- Politis, V., *Routledge Philosophy Guide Book to Aristotle and the Metaphysics* (London: Routledge, 2004) (click [HERE](#))
- Pugh, B., *SCM Studyguide: Philosophy and the Christian Faith* (London: SCM, 2018) (click [HERE](#))
- Robertson, D. and Groves, J., *Introducing Philosophy A Graphic Guide* (London: Icon, 2014) (click [HERE](#))
- Strathern, P., *Aristotle: Philosophy in an Hour* (London: HarperCollins, 2012) (click [HERE](#))
- Wetzel, *Augustine: A Guide for the Perplexed* (London: Bloomsbury, 2010) (click [HERE](#))