



The University of Manchester



**School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
Course Unit Descriptor**

23.02.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Modern and Postmodern Philosophy
Unit Code	276 (8276 for distance learning delivery)
Unit Level	2
Contact Hours	22 hours (n/a for distance learning delivery)
FHEQ Level	5
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Joshua T. Searle
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit builds on unit 176 (Philosophy and Christian Worldview) and introduces some key themes in philosophy from the Enlightenment to the present day. There is a particular focus on the Western classical philosophical tradition. The unit will conclude with a consideration of postmodernity and how this movement impacts thinking about the Christian faith. Through critical interaction with intellectual ideas that have shaped contemporary culture, this unit challenges students to engage with philosophical ideas concerning godness, truth and beauty from a Christian point of departure.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

- To develop students' understanding of the subject and methods of philosophy
- To improve their skills in critical thinking
- To give students a basic understanding of the main developments in the Western philosophical tradition, so that they can critically interact with ideas that have shaped the contemporary world from an explicitly Christian perspective

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Understand some key terms and questions in philosophy from c.1650 to the present day
- Demonstrate an understanding of major movements in philosophy, such as empiricism, idealism, existentialism and postmodernism

Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Develop a critical awareness of some of the fundamental questions of philosophy from the Enlightenment to the present day
- Formulate lucid Christian responses to some major philosophical developments since the Enlightenment

Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Use IT and computer skills to effectively support research
- Critically interact with complex texts and extract relevant ideas and information
- Articulate a personal response to some philosophical positions

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Integrate knowledge and understanding of philosophical concepts and apply these to a range of current ethical and political issues
- Recognise and understand nuances of argumentation in complex texts

Employability Skills

The ability to engage in informed debate in a way which facilitates the understanding of differing world views as well as the skills to educate others to engage with nuances of argumentation in the context of contemporary world views, are invaluable in many employment contexts.

SYLLABUS

1. The Enlightenment I
2. The Enlightenment II
3. The Romantic Movement I
4. The Romantic Movement II
5. Existentialism and Phenomenology
6. Marxism
7. Logical Positivism
8. Postmodern Philosophy I
9. Postmodern Philosophy II
10. Christian Faith and Postmodern Philosophy I
11. Christian Faith and Postmodern Philosophy II

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

276: Interactive lectures
 8276: Distance learning
 Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
• 276: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
• 8276: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
Summative:		
• 276: An essay	2500 words	100%
• 8276: An essay and a learning journal*	2500 words	100% Pass/fail*
* Distance learning students are required to pass this element. So long as this element has been passed, they will be eligible for compensation if the overall unit mark is within the compensation zone (30-39%), and the compensatable credit allowance as set out in the Degree Regulations has not been exceeded.		

FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class (276 Only)
- Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days

REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Available as free choice (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

RECOMMENDED READING

Caputo, John D., *The Prayers and Tears of Jacques Derrida: Religion without Religion* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997)
 Clark, Kelly James, et al (eds), *101 Key Terms in Philosophy and Their Importance for Theology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2008)
 Flynn, Thomas, *Existentialism: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006)
 Honderich, Ted, *The Oxford Companion to Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995)
 Kee, Alistair, *The Masters of Suspicion: Feuerbach, Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud* (London: SCM, 2012)
 Kenny, Anthony, *The Rise of Modern Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006)
 Middleton, J. Richard, and Brian J. Walsh, *Truth is Stranger Than It Used To Be: Biblical*

Faith in a Postmodern Age (London: SPCK / Downers Grove: IVP, 1995)
 Rollins, Peter, *How (Not) to Speak of God* (London: SPCK, 2006)
 Schouls, Peter A., *Descartes and the Enlightenment* (Montreal: McGill Queens University Press / Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1989)
 Smith, James K.A., *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?: Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to Church* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006)
 Vanhoozer, Kevin, *The Cambridge Companion to Postmodern Theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003)

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22 contact hours (n/a for distance learning version)

PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 (100 for distance learning version)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC

Valid from Date (Publishing Date)