

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2016

Philosophy 310 (FIL 310)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Module credits	30.00
Programmes	BSc Information Technology Information and Knowledge Systems BA Extended Programme BA Humanities BA Languages Languages BA Law BA Visual Studies BPolSci International Studies BPolSci Political Studies BSocSci Industrial Sociology and Labour Studies BSocSci Option: Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Service modules	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Prerequisites	At least three of FIL 110, 120, 210, 220
Contact time	1 discussion class per week, 2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Both Afr and Eng
Academic organisation	Philosophy
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Philosophical anthropology and cognitive philosophy

In this module the focus is on the quest to understand humankind and its relations to reality and knowledge. Both the analytical, interpretative perspective and the normative perspective are covered. This is done with the aid of a selection of key themes and texts from the history of philosophy, but with special attention to their contemporary relevance. The first of the two foci of this semester module is philosophical anthropology or contemporary metaphysics. Themes covered may include: Is a human more than the sum total of its properties?; the relation between consciousness, self-consciousness and the human unconscious; the meaning of life; the nature of personal identity; the issue of free will, and others. The second focus of the semester module is the cognitive disciplines of philosophy, such as philosophy of science, philosophy of mind and epistemology. In philosophy of science, themes covered may include the types of reasoning in science, the nature and role of explanations in science, the scientific realism debate, the nature of scientific progress, justification of scientific theories, the role of truth in science, and others. In philosophy of mind, themes covered may include the relation between spirit, psyche and body - the mind-body problem, the nature of consciousness and qualia, dualism, materialism, functionalism, physicalism, supervenience, intentionality, and others. In epistemology themes covered may include rationalism, empiricism, transcendental, idealism and Kant foundationalism coherentism, epistemic internalism and externalism, radical scepticism, and others.

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