

## Topics in Philosophy I B | PIU11014

Year	Junior Fresher
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 lectures; 5 tutorials
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr. Michael Markunas; Dr. Samantha Fazekas
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### Module Outline:

#### ***Component 1: The Climate Crisis:***

This component will concern itself with one of the most pressing political concerns of our time: the climate crisis. This component will offer an introduction to environmental philosophy. We will analyze different understandings of the environment, and question from moral, aesthetic, and political perspectives why we should value and protect it. We will also consider whether or not we should conserve the environment for the sake of current and future generations. Possible solutions to climate change will be addressed and problematized, such as geoengineering, agroforestry, and veganism.

#### **Recommended Reading List:**

The complete reading list, including primary and secondary literature, will be finalized at the beginning of the term.

- Thomas E. Hill Jr., "Finding Value in Nature," *Environmental Values* Vol. 15, no. 3, *Perspectives on Environmental Values: The Princeton Workshop* (August 2006): 331-341.
- Holmes Rolston III, "Aesthetics in the Swamps," *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 43, no. 4 (Summer 2000): 584-597.
- James W. Nickel, "The Human Right to a Safe Environment: Philosophical Perspectives on Its Scope and Justification," *Yale Journal of International Law* Vol. 18, no. 1 (1993): 281-295.
- Frans de Waal, "What I Learned Tickling Apes," *New York Times* (April 2016): 1-3.

#### ***Component 2: The Philosophy of Perception:***

This component will concern one of the livelier recent debates in theoretical philosophy and science—the nature of perception. You will be introduced to both classic and contemporary views on perception, and to recent central issues. Part 1 will cover main theories of perception



that have been dominant in analytic philosophy. In Part 2, we will look at some recent developments in perceptual psychology and cognitive science that put pressure on certain philosophical views of perception. We will consider the extent to which such experimental results can settle (or fail to settle) philosophical questions about the nature of perception. No scientific or philosophical background will be presupposed. All readings will be made available online.

## Recommended Reading List:

The complete reading list, including primary and secondary literature, will be finalized at the beginning of the term.

- Crane, Tim & French, Craig (2021). The Problem of Perception. *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*.
- Harman, G. (1990). The Intrinsic Quality of Experience. *Philosophical Perspectives* 4:31-52.
- Martin, M. G. F. (2009). The Reality of Appearances. In Alex Byrne & Heather Logue (eds.), *Disjunctivism: Contemporary Readings*. MIT Press. pp. 91.
- Phillips, I & Block, N (2016). Debate on unconscious perception. In Bence Nanay (ed.), *Current Controversies in Philosophy of Perception*. New York: Routledge. pp. 165–192.

## Assessment:

1 Essay (end of module) 50% **AND** 1 Exam (end of module) 50%