



History of Western Philosophy II A | PIU22011

Year	Senior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Professor Lilian Alweiss and Professor Farbod Akhlaghi
Contact Email	alweissl@tcd.ie / farbod.akhlaghi@tcd.ie

Module Outline:

Component One: Kant: Epistemology and Metaphysics (Prof. Lilian Alweiss)

This course will introduce you to Kant's theoretical philosophy as articulated in the *Critique of Pure Reason*. The course will focus primarily, but not exclusively, on topics from the first half of the book, and will examine core topics such as the Copernican Turn, Kant's doctrine of transcendental idealism, the analytic/synthetic distinction, the nature of space, the problem of causation and the response to Humean scepticism, and Kant's theory of the self. The course will aim to show the centrality of Kant's thought both to an understanding of the development of the history of philosophy and as a source of philosophical interest for contemporary epistemology and metaphysics.

Component Two: Classical Islamic Philosophy from Al-Kindi to Averroes (Prof Farbod Akhlaghi)

From around the 9th to the 12th century CE, the Islamic world was one of the world's major centres of philosophical activity. The aim of these lectures is to introduce you to the philosophy of this Classical Islamic period. These philosophers engaged in important, novel work that informed much of the philosophy that followed, including that of the medieval Christian world. They tackled topics as varied as the justification of belief, the nature of prophecy, and the metaphysics of modality to ethical problems and debate over the ideal political state. We will undertake a journey together through the work of several Persian and Arab philosophers from Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Avicenna (Ibn Sina), Al-Ghazali, to Averroes (Ibn Rushd). Throughout, we will also explore their connections to contemporary philosophical debates today.



Assessment:

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

You have to submit ONE essay for this course and answer ONE question in the exam. If you submit an essay for component ONE you have to do the exam on Component TWO and vice versa.

Recommended Reading List:

Component One: The set-text for this component is:

- Immanuel Kant: *The Critique of Pure Reason*, translated by Kemp Smith, Macmillan. (You can use other translations if you so wish)

You may wish to consult additionally:

- Sebastian Gardner *Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*, Routledge. (short and good introduction)
- Georges Dicker: *Kant's Theory of Knowledge*. New York: Oxford Uni. Press, 2004.
- James O'Shea: *Kant's Critique of Pure Reason Acumen*, 2012

Component Two:

Our textbook for Component Two will be:

- Booth, Anthony Robert. (2017). *Analytic Islamic Philosophy*. Palgrave Macmillan.

For helpful preparatory reading, see:

- Adamson, Peter. (2015). *Philosophy in the Islamic World: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

And for a helpful translation of several key texts from this period, see:

- Khalidi, Muhammed. (2010). *Medieval Islamic Philosophical Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press