



Philosophical Logic Course Descriptor

Course Title	Philosophical Logic	Faculty	Philosophy
Course Code	NCHPH753	Course Leader	Dr Ioannis Votsis
Credit Points	15	Teaching Period	Either
FHEQ Level	Level 7	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Optional		
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisites	None		

COURSE SUMMARY

This course introduces students to the study of the philosophical dimension of logic. This concerns questions about the nature of analyticity, truth, reference, modality, existence and identity. For example, what makes a statement analytic? Can the distinction between analytic and synthetic statements be upheld? What exactly is it that bears the properties of truth and falsity? Is truth correspondence with facts or mere coherence? What is the relationship between meaning and reference? Does reference consist in the satisfaction of descriptions or the establishment of some causal relation? What are possible worlds? Do they exist as abstract or concrete entities? What is existence? Is existence a property? What does it mean for two objects to be identical? Must they be identical across possible worlds? The course seeks to cultivate an appreciation of the complexities inherent in answering questions such as the above.

COURSE AIMS

The aim of this course is to:

- Provide a reasonable grasp of the philosophical issues that underlie the relation between logic, language and the world.
- Develop students' engagement with key questions surrounding philosophical logic.
- Promote an active understanding of the issues surrounding such notions as truth, analyticity, meaning, reference, necessity, identity, and existence.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- K1d Demonstrate wide-ranging knowledge of, and recognition of systematic connections between, questions and debates in philosophical logic.
- K2d Show detailed critical engagement with the texts and theories of key figures such as Quine, Russell, Kripke and Lewis.
- K3d Show a fine grasp of logical structure and truth-preserving patterns of inference in the context of philosophical logic.

SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS

- S1d Make original use of advanced scholarly techniques to clarify and situate ideas and arguments from philosophical logic that belong to a variety of periods and traditions.
- S2d Engage with unfamiliar material at the forefront of the discipline, selecting and analysing information, questioning assumptions, and critically evaluating competing methodologies, sources of data and arguments.

TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- T1d Take initiative and personal responsibility; work independently, effectively, and to deadlines.
- T2d Respond systematically and creatively to complex, wide-ranging, and unpredictable data, theories, and arguments.
- T3d Display self-direction to produce original, sophisticated, clear, and persuasive presentations (written and oral).
- T3d Consistently apply an excellent level of technical proficiency in written English, using an advanced application of scholarly terminology, that demonstrates the ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and with sophistication.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teaching and learning strategies for this course will include:

- 15 hours of full-cohort lectures
- 1 x one-hour one-to-one tutorials per student

Course information and supplementary materials are available on the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Students are required to attend and participate in all the formal and timetabled sessions for this course. Students are also expected to manage their directed learning and independent study in support of the course.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

The study of philosophy cultivates skills that are employable across a range of sectors. These include the abilities to:

- Work independently, creatively, and to deadlines
- Conduct research and explore relevant existing knowledge
- Analyse, contextualise, and interpret complex ideas and materials
- Synthesise and evaluate information against a backdrop of uncertainty
- Solve problems through logical reasoning
- Present findings and opinions in a clear, structured manner, whether orally or in writing
- Engage in collaborative and constructive discussion

ASSESSMENT

FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of one or more set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental feedback, both written and oral.

SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in one form:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Written assignment	100%	Yes	N/A	4000 words

FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in a variety of ways: written (including via email correspondence); oral (within one-to-one tutorials or on an *ad hoc* basis) and indirectly through discussion during group tutorials. Student's will also attend Collections, in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their performance.

Feedback is provided on summative assessment and is made available to the student either via email, the VLE or another appropriate method

INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

BOOKS

Blackburn, S. (2018) *On Truth*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Grayling, A.C. (1997) *An Introduction to Philosophical Logic*. 3rd edition, Oxford: Blackwell.

Kirkham, R. L. (2001) *Theories of Truth: A Critical Introduction*, MIT Press.

Kripke, S. (1980) *Naming and Necessity*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Lewis, D.K. (1986) *On the Plurality of Worlds*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Papineau, D. (2012) *Philosophical Devices*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sainsbury, R.M. (2001) *Logical Forms*. 2nd edition, Oxford: Blackwell.

INDICATIVE TOPICS

- Analyticity
 - Truth
 - Meaning and Reference
 - Modality
 - Existence
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Title: NCHPH753 Philosophical Logic Course Descriptor					
Approved by: Academic Board					
Location: Academic Handbook/Programme specifications and Handbooks/ Postgraduate Programme Specifications/MA Philosophy & AI Programme Specification/Philosophy Course Descriptors					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Owner	Proposed next review date	Modification (As per AQF4) & category number
2.0	April 2022	April 2022	Brian Ball	April 2025	Category 3: Changes to Course Learning Outcomes
1.0	June 2020	June 2020	Brian Ball	April 2025	