SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2015-2016

PH404B SCEPTICISM

15 CREDITS- 11 WEEKS

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Dr Luca Moretti
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Discipline Administration:

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TIMETABLE
Please see the portal/MyTimetable

Students can view their university timetable at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course will focus on the long-standing debate on epistemological scepticism. It will single out the principal types of scepticism emerged in history and will explore important attempts to reply to them. The emphasis will be on global scepticism (or scepticism about the external world) and the contemporary responses to it. The latter will include positions based on relevant alternatives, on the rejection of closure, and on epistemological entitlement; infallibilism and contextualism will also be considered.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The course aims to introduce the epistemological debate on scepticism, the principal forms of scepticism and the principal attempted solutions of sceptical problems; to give students insight into the central problems of the debate on scepticism; to explore connections between the discussion on scepticism and other epistemological discussions - principally, concerning the characterization of the notions of knowledge and of epistemic justification; to trace some recent developments in the contemporary debate, above all in connection with issues of formal epistemology.

The main learning outcomes of the course are the following: to be able to explain key concepts in epistemology; to understand the positions of some of the main historical figures in epistemology; to understand the positions of some of the main contemporary figures in epistemology; to be able to read and critically discuss journal articles carefully and identify key arguments; to be able to articulate ideas clearly, confidently and systematically.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
Three one-hour lectures and eight ninety-minute student-led seminars over eleven weeks.
READING LIST
The reading list will be available at the beginning of the course.

ASSESSMENT
1 x 3500 word essay (50%) plus 1 x 2 hour exam (40%) plus seminar presentation (10%).
There is no re-sit for Level 4 students.

Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).
Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

ESSAYS
It should be about 3500 words long. Please ask the coordinator for further details.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES
TBA

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
Submit one paper copy with a completed essay cover sheet to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.
Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks.
Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.
EXAMINATION

A 2-hour exam, in which the student will give written answers to 2 out of 7-8 questions, will take place at the end of the half session. General exam guidance will be given in the Student Handbook.

Past exam papers can be viewed at [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/).