
Key questions in philosophy A333

Presentation pattern October to June

Module description

This broad-ranging philosophy module focuses on five topics: truth in fiction, war, reason and action, the value of life, knowledge and reason. Why do people seek out art that makes them cry? In war, is there a clear moral distinction between killing combatants and killing non-combatants? Is there such a thing as 'collective responsibility'? What might it mean to say that life is sacred? Is science rational? The five module books will enable students to explore these questions in depth, while leaving space within the module for independent study and reflection. The module will build on the knowledge and skills taught in our introductory (Level 2) philosophy module, while developing students' ability to engage in complex and sometimes controversial debates, to study and think independently, and to communicate their ideas effectively through essays and through a brief presentation. There is an end-of module assessment, in the form of a long essay.

Person specification

The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the [generic person specification](#) for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should:

- have an undergraduate (upper second or above) degree in philosophy or in which philosophy is a substantial component; or a postgraduate qualification in philosophy
- have experience of teaching philosophy (including philosophy in the Anglo-American tradition) at degree level in one or more of the following fields: aesthetics, ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of mind, epistemology
- be able to demonstrate the ability to facilitate philosophical discussion, including the discussion of controversial issues
- be able to demonstrate the ability to grade assignments at degree level and provide constructive feedback to students
- be able to demonstrate the ability to encourage students to engage with scholarship and independent study (including awareness of resources).

It would be an advantage to have:

- a postgraduate degree, research experience and/or publications in philosophy
- experience of teaching philosophy in several of the following fields: aesthetics, ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of mind and epistemology
- teaching qualification or HEA accreditation
- evidence of keeping subject knowledge updated

Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module:	60
Number of assignments submitted by the student:	5
Method of submission for assignments:	2
Level of ICT requirements:	2
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	20
Salary band:	7
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	6