



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY
UNIT OUTLINE**

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

UNIT TITLE	READINGS: HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY
UNIT CODES	H74117
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	H
PREREQUISITE/S	<i>BOTH</i> H51060/H73060 Introduction to Philosophy (Griffith undergraduate code 2401THL or postgraduate code 7075THL), <i>AND</i> <i>either</i> H52061/H74061 Ancient & Medieval Philosophy (Griffith postgraduate code 7076THL <i>or</i> H52162/H74162 Modern Western Philosophy (Griffith - undergraduate code 2403THL; postgraduate code – 7077THL) <i>or</i> H52064/H74064 Contemporary Continental Philosophy (Griffith undergraduate code 3405THL)
INCOMPATIBLES	
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13-week semester, plus participation in 3 postgraduate colloquiums spread across the semester
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Available on request, in consultation with the lecturer
PREPARED BY	Mr Richard Colledge
UNIT COORDINATOR	Dr Richard Colledge
TEACHING STAFF	Dr Richard Colledge; Revd Dr Greg Moses
DATE PREPARED	20 February 2004

Rationale

This course provides an opportunity for students who have successfully completed at least one (though preferably at least two) coursework course/s in the History of Philosophy, to explore in greater depth a particular issue, era or philosopher in the western philosophical tradition. The course is of use both to those students who wish to specialise within a particular era, as well as to those who wish to follow a particular theme or issue through a specified arc of western philosophical history (e.g., comparing the ethical theories of Aristotle and Kant, or the metaphysical assumptions underlying medieval and modern philosophical anthropology). Students are able to engage in an extended guided reading program, and to then draw this research together in a thorough but limited study. The course provides students with the opportunity to undertake and enhance their skills in independent scholarly research. Available only for Masters students, this course provides a useful preparation for the later coursework thesis.

Relation to Program

This Masters-level course lends a degree of flexibility and specialisation within the BCT suite of courses in the history of philosophy. Given the completion of at least one other course in the history of philosophy, students are given the freedom to frame and then research an area of particular interest within this field. Depending on the area of specialisation, the course provides the opportunity for work on kindred themes to a range of courses in other fields.

Aims

The course aims to both deepen the student's familiarity with a particular era, theme or figure in the history of philosophy, and the current trends in scholarship in that area, and to facilitate the development of the student's critical capacities in self-directed research.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this unit the student should be able to:	
1.	articulate the fundamental characteristics of a particular area of speciality within the history of philosophy (e.g., the rival claims of the historical figures under investigation), as well as some of the more difficult problems that confront the researcher in this area.
2.	critically examine and assess the competing claims being made by various contemporary scholars working in the area.
3.	demonstrate an ability to take an (inevitably tentative) position of one's own in response to evidence uncovered.
4.	assess the relevance of the topic to contemporary developments in philosophy.
5.	demonstrate ability, initiative and communication skills in carrying out wide and independent research in consultation with the supervising lecturer.

Content

The area of study is determined through the initiative of the student, in consultation and negotiation with the supervising lecturer.

Organisation and Teaching Strategies

The course may be undertaken either individually (in which case it would be organised along similar lines to *H74555 Specialised Study: Philosophy & Humanities*), or within a small group of students (in which case it would be organised along the lines of a reading course and/or regular colloquia). In the latter case, it matters not if individual students are working on similar themes/issues/ figures or on quite disparate ones; in any case all benefit from regular feedback from others on the state of their research. Regardless of such circumstances, all students are required to present the results of their independent research on a regular basis and will in this context receive guidance from the lecturer. A schedule of consultation dates and/or colloquia is determined at the beginning of the semester.

Assessment

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
1.	The student will be assessed on the basis of a single research project.	7500	100%	Week 14	1 - 5

Generic Skills

- Advanced skills in research using primary and secondary texts, and in the integration of this material in submitted work.
- Advanced skills in use of electronic catalogues, data bases and search engines, as well as hard copy.
- Advanced writing skills: clear expression and technical proficiency; clearly discernible purpose; logical structuring of ideas; and conciseness.
- Thorough grasp and practice of philosophical reasoning techniques.

Bibliography

Textbooks

Required

Nil

Recommended

To be determined once the project has been negotiated.

Academic & General Resource Requirements

References – Books, Journal Articles, Online and Other IT Resources

As appropriate – Students will be required to present an initial reading list to the lecturer within 3 weeks of the commencement of the semester.