HFF225: PHILOSOPHY AND CURRENT ISSUES

1. SYNOPSIS

Topics to be covered in this course include the relation between philosophy and the National Education Philosophy and Rukun Negara. Philosophy is used as a tool to refine the culture of thought in life through the art and methods of thinking as well as through our understanding of the concept of the human person. Key branches in philosophy, namely epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics, are discussed in the context of current issues. Emphasis is given to philosophy as the basis for intercultural dialogue and for fostering common values. At the end of this course, students will be able to see the disciplines of study as a comprehensive and integrated body of knowledge.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

	COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	PO	LT	SS	MARKING METHOD
CO1	Explain the current issues based on the philosophy, National Education Philosophy, and Rukun Negara.	PO1	C2		Quiz Test
CO2	Explain the current issues based on the mainstream of thought in various philosophical schools.	PO2	A3	CTPS1	Presentation
CO3	Elaborate the current issues through the comparative perspective of philosophical values as the basis for establishing intercultural dialogue.	PO3	A4	EM1	Essay

3. INSTRUCTORS

NAME	☎	✉	CONSULTATION TIME
Dr. Aiza Maslan @ Baharudin	04-6532874	aizamaslan@usm.my	
P.M. Dr. Muhammad Azizan Sabjan	04-6533869	mazizan@usm.my	
Dr. Shohana Hussin	04-6535885	shohana@usm.my	
Dr. Mujahid Bakar	09-7677788	mujahid@usm.my	Appointment
Dr. Muhammad Syahrul Fitri Zawawi	09-7676974	msf.zawawi@usm.my	
P.M. Dr. Suhaila Abdullah	04-6535172	aila@usm.my	
Dr. Mohd Syahmir Alias	04-6532871	syahmir@usm.my	
Dr. Nur Izzaty Mohamad	04-6532877	izzaty@usm.my	

4. LECTURE TIME

MEETING	DAY	TIME	PLATFORM
Lecture	Tuesday	8.00 – 9.50 a.m.	USM E-Learning Portal
Online – synchronous or asynchronous			

5. LECTURE PLANNING

The course will be delivered online. Additional information and any changes to the implementation of lectures will be notified via USM E-Learning Portal.

WEEK	TOPIC	INSTRUCTOR
1 (17/10/2023) Synchronous	Introduction - What is philosophy? Malaysia's Rukun Negara; Malaysia's National Education Philosophy	Dr. Nur Izzaty Mohamad
2 (24/10/2023) Synchronous	Philosophy and life	
3 (31/10/2023) Synchronous	Methods of thinking (I)	
4 (7/11/2023) Asynchronous	Methods of thinking (II)	
5 (14/11/2023) Asynchronous	Psychology and sociology (I)	
6 (21/11/2023) Asynchronous	Psychology and sociology (II)	
7 (28/11/2023) Asynchronous	Metaphysics (I)	Dr. Mohd Syahmir Alias
4/12/2023 – 10/12/2023	**MID-SEMESTER BREAK**	
9 (12/12/2023) Asynchronous	Metaphysics (II)	Dr. Mohd Syahmir Alias
10 (19/12/2023) Asynchronous	Epistemology (I)	
11 (26/12/2023) Asynchronous	Epistemology (II)	
12 (2/1/2024) Synchronous	Some systems of philosophy (I)	
13 (9/1/2024 Synchronous	Some systems of philosophy (II)	
14 (16/1/2024) Synchronous	Selected case study – philosophy and current issues	
15 (23/1/2024) Synchronous	Overall conclusion	

5.1 ATTENDANCE
- Students who do not mark the attendance and do not submit all the assignments (except for valid reasons) will be given grade X.
- Students must be involved in online lectures by always monitoring the USM E-Learning Portal and information through Telegram Group HFF225 International (2023/24).

6. COURSE ASSESSMENT

The assessment of this course which is 100% course work divided as follows:

ACTIVITY	MARKS	DUE DATE	METHOD
Quiz	10%	Week 7	E-Learning Portal
Presentation	30%	Week 9	Group presentation (face-to-face/online/audiovisual recording)
Essay	30%	Week 11	Group work
Test	30%	Week 15	E-Learning Portal

7. COURSE WORK PREPARATION GUIDELINE

7.1 QUIZ (10%) – E-Learning Portal

- Quiz is the component of the assessments that will be conducted online through the **E-Learning Portal**.
- It will be evaluated and marked individually.
- The quiz will be conducted on **Week 7.**

ATTENTION: Students are fully responsible for taking the **QUIZ** online on the specified date and time because there will be **NO RETAKE** for the quiz.

7.2 PRESENTATION (30%) – Schools

CO2	PO	LT	SS
Explain the current issues based on the mainstream of thought in various philosophical schools.	PO3	A3	CTPS1
DATELINE: WEEK 9			

- The marking of the presentation will be evaluated by appointed supervisors by the respective schools.
- Each group has to present the results of their research to the supervisor and the supervisor will give the feedback.
- Presentation can be carried out face-to-face, online, or via video recording.
- Students must submit the presentation materials to the supervisor in soft copy before presenting.
- 10 - 15 minutes will be given to present the research outcomes.
- The presentation is a group evaluation, hence all members of the group must present.

PRESENTATION MARKING RUBRIC

Assessment criteria	Weightage (% of 30 marks)	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent	Maximum marks
		0	1	2	3	
Title – interesting & relevant	10	Uninteresting and too general	Interesting, but too general	Interesting and specific	Interesting, specific, unique, reflective of an impressive research	3

Visual appeal & organization of material	20	No visual appeal at all	Sufficiently appealing but there are issues with organization of material	Interesting and appealing to the audience	High visual appeal with well-ordered organization of material	6
Delivery skills	30	No visible interest in the work	Average delivery	Clear and coherent delivery	Clear and coherent delivery, able to sustain the audience's interest	9
Content – accurately reflective of research output	20	Many irrelevant data	Fairly reflective of research output, but there are some unclear information presented	Covered most of the information from the research output	Comprehensive, clear, and well-organized delivery of information	6
Group dynamics	20	No cooperation among members of the group	Every group member participates, but there are one or two who only read aloud from the text	Clearly visible that adequate preparations were put into this activity	Cooperative group work aimed at delivering their research in a well-organized and interesting manner	6
Total	**100%**					**30 marks**

7.3 ESSAY (30%) – Schools

CO3	PO	LT	SS
Elaborate the current issues through the comparative perspective of philosophical values as the basis for establishing intercultural dialogue.	PO6	A4	EM1
DATELINE: WEEK 11			

- Students must prepare an essay containing 15-20 pages or 5000-8000 words in groups.
- This is a group evaluation that will be marked by appointed supervisors by respective schools.
- Students will be divided into groups of **4 or 5 members**. The marks will be given in groups.
- Based on the research themes, students will propose the topic to the supervisor and the supervisor will determine the suitability and the approval of the topic.
- Essay must be typed using **Times New Roman** font **size 12** and **double spacing.**
- Essay must have the references or bibliography that lists completely all the sources that have been used in **APA format**.

ESSAY MARKING RUBRIC

Assessment criteria	Weightage (% of 30 marks)	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent	Maximum marks
		0	1	2	3	
Title – interesting & relevant	10	Uninteresting and too general	Interesting, but too general	Interesting and specific	Interesting, specific, unique, reflective of an impressive research	3
Descriptive – sufficient & relevant data	30	Insufficient	Sufficient, but there are veracity issues with some data	Sufficient data collected with no veracity issues	Sufficient, veridical, relevant, and interconnected data	9
Organization of text	10	Chaotic	Organized, but too few sections	Organized and adequate number of sections	Organized structure with coherently connected sections	3
Scholarly level of analysis, reasonable & consistent arguments	30	Devoid of analysis; solely descriptive	Shallow analysis	Suitable and sufficient analysis	Profound analysis with sophisticated and balanced arguments	9
Citation format that is consistent & fitting	10	Absolutely no citations	Has citations, but there are sources used without being cited	Good citation format, but the list is a bit thin	Good format, consistent, and possessing adequate and suitable resources	3
Accuracy of spelling and grammar	10	Many mistakes in spelling and grammar	Few mistakes in spelling and grammar	Accuracy of spelling and grammar	No mistakes, with an impressive and scholarly writing style	3
Total	**100**					**30 marks**

7.4 TEST (30%) – E-Learning Portal

- The test is a part of the assessments that will be conducted online on the **E-Learning Portal.**
- The marking will be given individually.
- The test will be on **Week 15**.

ATTENTION: Students are fully responsible for taking the **TEST** online on the specified date and time because there will be **NO RETAKE** for the test.

8. PROPOSED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR GROUP ASSIGNMENT (ESSAY AND PRESENTATION)

WEEK	ACTIVITY
3	Appointment of supervisors and groups. Discussions among group members and supervisor to finalize an assignment topic.
4	
5	Research work, writing the essay.
6	
7	
8	MID-SEMESTER BREAK
9	Oral Presentation of research output (assessment marks given by supervisor - based solely on this presentation). Supervisor provides feedback to the group.
10	Finalizing the written essay.
11	Submission of the essay to the supervisor.
12	Supervisor evaluates and marks the essay.
13	Supervisor hands in the marks to the school coordinator. Two sets of marks – one for the presentation, and one for the essay. Plus the aggregate marks. Every student in the group receives the same pair of marks.
14	**TEST** and **QUIZ** marks will be submitted to the school coordinator to be added with the essay and presentation marks. After receiving students' marks for the test and quiz, and adding these marks to the essay and presentation marks, **the overall MARKS of every student is keyed** into the system at their respective schools by **THE SCHOOL COORDINATOR**.
15	

9. SUGGESTED THEMES FOR GROUP ASSIGNMENT

THEMES / TOPIC
An issue related to environmental ethics
An issue related to religion and society
An examination of and discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI)
An issue related to the objectives of education
Reflection on the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic
Discuss a local political issue
Students' thoughts on the discipline of philosophy
Appreciation of the arts as a culture
The fourth industrial revolution and its impact on society
The significance of critical thinking to the self and nation
Is "meaning of life" something that is important and given serious thought by our university students?

> **OR** - Any contemporary issue that has reasonably broad and profound social consequences, which is proposed by the group of students intending to undertake its research, and approved by the lecturer.

Note: the research can entail an empirical data collection or one that is purely theoretical, requiring analyses of concepts and the building of arguments.

10. SUPERVISION AND OBSERVATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

- Each group will be assigned under an appointed supervisor by respective schools.
- Students can get the supervisor's name at the respective schools starting from **Week 2.**
- Each group will choose the same topic for presentation and essay.
- Students need to discuss and communicate with the supervisor regarding the progress of their group activities from time to time.
- The supervisor will monitor the progress of the students' assignments according to the schedule provided.
- Any questions can be forwarded to the school coordinator (PTJ Representative) according to the respective schools as listed in Article 11 below.

11. LIST OF NAMES OF SCHOOL COORDINATORS (PTJ REPRESENTATIVES) FOR EACH SCHOOL.

SCHOOL	SCHOOL COORDINATOR	EMAIL
Humanities	Dr. Aiza Maslan @ Baharudin	aizamaslan@usm.my
Education	Dr. Chin Huan	chinhuan@usm.my
Communication	P.M. Dr. Juliana Abdul Wahab / Dr. Mahyuddin Ahmad	julia@usm.my / din_rahman@usm.my
Management	Dr. Rosmelisa Yusof	rosmelisa@usm.my
Social Sciences	Dr. Mohd Haizzan Yahaya / Dr. Nur Ajrun Khalid	m_haizzan@usm.my / nurajrun@usm.my
Arts	Encik Goh Chu Hiang	goh@usm.my
Language, Literature, and Translation	Ms. Nadia Roselilyana Noordin	nadiarose@usm.my
Pharmaceutical Sciences	Dr. Noratiqah Mohtar	noratiqah@usm.my
Biological Science	Dr. Hadura Abu Hasan / Dr. Azlinda Abu Bakar	hadura@usm.my / azlindaab@usm.my
Physics	Dr. Wan Mohamad Husni Wan Mokhtar	wanhusni@usm.my
Chemical Sciences	Dr. Ahmad Faiz Abdul Latip	afaiz@usm.my
Mathematical Sciences	Dr. Yazariah Mohd Yatim	yazariahmy@usm.my
Computer Sciences	Dr. Nor Athiyah Abdullah	athiyah@usm.my
Industrial Technology	P.M. Dr. Tan Joo Shun	jooshun@usm.my
Housing, Building, and Planning	Dr. Siti Hamidah Husain	sitihamidahhusain@usm.my
Aerospace Engineering	Dr. Mohammad Hafifi Hafiz Ishaik	mhafifihafiz@usm.my
Civil Engineering	Dr. Rosnani Alkarimiah	cerosnani@usm.my
Electric and Electronic Engineering	Prof. Madya Dr. Muhammad Nasiruddin Mahyuddin	nasiruddin@usm.my
Chemical Engineering	Dr. Ahmad Faiz Abdul Latip	afaiz@usm.my
Mechanical Engineering	Dr. Ahmad Fikri bin Mustaffa	afikri@usm.my
Materials and Mineral Resources Engineering	Ir Mohamad Azwan Mad Naseer	srazwan@usm.my
Health Sciences	Dr. Mujahid Bakar	mujahid@usm.my
Dental Sciences	Dr. Norzaliana Zawawi	norzaliana@usm.my
Medical Sciences	Dr. Ramlah Kadir	ramlahkadir@usm.my
USM-KLE Medical Sciences	Prof. Madya Dr. Nik Ahmad Zuky / Pn. Nurfareza binti Sukri	nikzuky@usm.my / nurfareza@usm.my

12. IMPORTANT REMINDER

- Access to USM E-Learning is **REQUIRED**. All materials for this course, including instruction and learning, should be accessed online.

- Students need to mark the attendance online through the E-Learning Portal according to the provided lecture schedule.

- The **QUIZ** and **TEST** will be conducted **SIMULTANEOUSLY** for **ALL CAMPUSES** and there is **NO REPEAT**.

- Students who fail to complete all coursework components (without a valid reason) will be given an F Grade.

- Students must obtain at least Grade C to meet graduation requirements.

13. SELECTED MAIN REFERENCES

Collinson, D., Plant, K. and Wilkinson, R. (2000). *Fifty Eastern Thinkers*. London: Routledge.

Dzulkifli A.R. dan Rosnani H. (penyunting) (2019). *Pentafsiran Baharu Falsafah Pendidikan Kebangsaan dan Pelaksanaannya Pasca 2020*. Kuala Lumpur: International Islamic University Malaysia Press.

Haldane, J. (2009). *Practical Philosophy: Ethics, Society and Culture*. Exeter: Imprint Academic.

Pigliucci, M., Cleary, S.C. and Kaufman, D.A. (editors) (2020). *How to Live a Good Life: A Guide to Choosing Your Personal Philosophy*. New York: Vintage Books.

ALL THE BEST!

PREPARED BY:
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