

**GUIDELINE ON
PHILOSOPHY AND CURRENT ISSUES (HFF225/2)
SEMESTER 1, ACADEMIC SESSION 2020/2021**

Lectures : Conducted by the academic staff members from School of Humanities.
Supervision : Conducted by the academic staff members from School of Mathematical Sciences.

SYNOPSIS

This course covers 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 fields in philosophy, namely epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics, are discussed in the context of current issues. Emphasis is given to philosophy as the basis for inter-cultural dialogue and 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.

LIST OF TOPICS

Week	Topic	Lecturer
1	Introduction to philosophy, Malaysia's National Education Philosophy and Rukun Negara	PM Dr Muhammad Azizan Sabjan
2	Philosophy in life	Dr Mohd Syahmir Alias
3	Methods of thinking I	Dr Mohd Syahmir Alias
4	Methods of thinking II	Dr Mohd Syahmir Alias
5	Psychology and sociology I	PM Dr Muhammad Azizan Sabjan
6	Psychology and sociology II	Dr Shohana Hussin
7	Metaphysics I	Dr Shohana Hussin
8	Mid-semester Break	
9	Metaphysics II	Dr Shohana Hussin
10	Epistemology I	Dr Mujahid Bakar
11	Epistemology II	Dr Mohd Zarawi Mat Nor
12	Ideology I	Dr Muhamad Syahrul Fitri Zawawi
13	Ideology II	Dr Mohd Syahmir Alias
14	Decolonises	Dr Suhaila Abdullah
15	Selected case study	Dr Suhaila Abdullah

The lecture materials for the above topics will be uploaded to eLearn@USM portal according to the arranged weekly schedule.

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed through coursework (no final examination).

Coursework	Percentage	Assessment Method	Note
Test	30	Based on the contents of the lectures.	Individual work.
Quiz	10		Online assessments on eLearn@USM portal. Information on coursework will be available via eLearn@USM.

Course Work	Percentage	Assessment Method	Note
Essay	30	A group should yield an Essay based on the topic selected (typed-written paper of around 3,000 words, replete with citations).	Group work. Conducted in each school. Academic staff member will be assigned to supervise a group of around five students.
Presentation	30	A group should give an oral Presentation (based on the research conducted). Essay and Presentation are assessed and given marks separately. Every group member will receive the same marks for Essay and Presentation.	The work for the two assignment components ought to be evenly divided among the group members. The supervisor should convene meetings virtually or in-person (at the discretion of the supervisor). The group presentation can be conducted through a synchronous online session or with physical presence.

Main Objectives of the Group Assignment

- To encourage students to think deeply about a current issue that has some impact on human existence.
- To provide an opportunity for students to work collaboratively in projects aimed at building their knowledge and analytical skills revolving around the study of the above issue.

Suggested Topics

- Issue on environmental ethics
- Issue on religion and society
- Issue on artificial intelligence (AI)
- Issue on the main objectives of education
- Students' reflection on the COVID-19 pandemic
- Issue on governance and local politics
- Students' thought on the discipline of philosophy
- Issue on appreciation of the arts as a cultural item
- The impact of fourth industrial revolution on society
- The significance of critical thinking to the self and nation
- Students' thought on the meaning of life
- A 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 supervisor.

**ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR GROUP WORK
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SEMESTER 1, ACADEMIC SESSION 2020/2021**

WEEK	DATE	ACTIVITY
1	12/10/2020 – 18/10/2020	Students can obtain information about HFF225 from school's website/Facebook page
2	19/10/2020 – 25/10/2020	Online meeting with supervisor (kindly contact your group members and supervisor for first meeting)
3-4	26/10/2020 – 8/11/2020	Discussions among group members and supervisor to finalise a topic
5-7	9/11/2020 – 29/11/2020	Research work and writing the essay
8	30/11/2020 – 6/12/2020	MID-SEMESTER BREAK
9	7/12/2020 – 13/12/2020	Presentation of the research output (evaluated by the supervisor)
10	14/12/2020 – 20/12/2020	Writing the essay
11	21/12/2020 – 27/12/2020	Essay is submitted to the supervisor
12	28/12/2020 – 3/1/2021	Supervisor evaluates the Essay
13	4/1/2021 – 10/1/2021	Supervisor hands in the marks (Presentation and Essay) to the school
14-15	11/1/2021 – 24/1/2021	Marks are entered into the system
16	25/1/2021 – 31/1/2021	REVISION WEEK

REFERENCES

- Collinson, D., Plant K., Wilkinson, R. (2000). *Fifty Eastern Thinkers*. London: Routledge.
- Haldane, J. (2009). *Practical Philosophy: Ethics, Society and Culture*. Exeter: Imprint Academic.
- Hospers, J. (1997). *An Introduction to Philosophical Analysis* (4th ed.). London: Routledge.
- Kessler, G.E. (2015). *Voices of Wisdom: A Multicultural Philosophy Reader* (9th ed.). Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing.
- Pojman, L.P. (2006). *Philosophy: The Quest for Truth*. New York: Oxford University Press.

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