HFF225/2 – PHILOSOPHY AND CURRENT ISSUES (INTERNATIONAL STUDENT)

1. COURSE 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 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:

NO	COURSE LEARNING OUTCOME	PLO	LT	SS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
CLO1	Explain the current issues based on philosophy, National Education Philosophy, and Rukun Negara	PLO1	C2		Quiz Test
CLO2	Explain the current issues based on the mainstream of thought in various philosophical schools	PLO3	A3	CTPS1	Presentation
CLO3	Elaborate the current issues through the comparative perspective of philosophical values as the basis for establishing intercultural dialogue	PLO6	A4	EM1	Essay

3. INSTRUCTORS (INTERNATIONAL STUDENT)

NAME	☎	✉	CONSULTATION TIME
Dr. Mohd Syahmir Alias (Coordinator)	04-6532871	syahmir@usm.my	
Dr. Nur Izzaty Mohamad	04-6532877	izzaty@usm.my	Via appointment – email
Dr. Ibrahim Majdi Mohamad Kamil	04-6532850	ibrahimmajdi@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 given from time to time via e-Learning portal.

WEEK/ LECTURE METHOD	TOPIC	INSTRUCTOR
1 Synchronous	Introduction - What is Philosophy? Malaysia's Rukun Negara; Malaysia's National Education Philosophy	Dr. Nur Izzaty Mohamad
2 Synchronous	Philosophy and Life	Dr. Nur Izzaty Mohamad
3 Asynchronous	Methods of Thinking (I)	Dr. Nur Izzaty Mohamad
4 Asynchronous	Methods of Thinking (II)	Dr. Nur Izzaty Mohamad
5 Synchronous	Metaphysics (I)	Dr. Mohd Syahmir Alias
6 Synchronous	Metaphysics (II)	Dr. Mohd Syahmir Alias
7 Synchronous	An Important Issue in Philosophy: The Meaning of Life	Dr. Mohd Syahmir Alias
8	**MID SEMESTER BREAK**	
9 Synchronous	Epistemology (I)	Dr. Mohd Syahmir Alias
10 Synchronous	Epistemology (II)	Dr. Mohd Syahmir Alias
11 Asynchronous	Psychology and Sociology (I)	Dr. Ibrahim Majdi Mohamad Kamil
12 Asynchronous	Psychology and Sociology (II)	Dr. Ibrahim Majdi Mohamad Kamil
13 Synchronous	Some Systems of Philosophy (I)	Dr. Ibrahim Majdi Mohamad Kamil
14 Synchronous	Some Systems of Philosophy (II)	Dr. Ibrahim Majdi Mohamad Kamil
15 Synchronous	Overall Conclusion	Dr. Ibrahim Majdi Mohamad Kamil

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 (2025/2026).

6. COURSE ASSESSMENT

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

ACTIVITY	MARKS	DUE DATE	METHOD
Quiz	10%	Week 7 17 – 21 Nov 2025 (Mon – Fri)	Individual work.
Essay	30%	Week 11	Group work.
Presentation	30%	Week 12	Group work.
Test	30%	Week 15 12 – 16 Jan 2026 (Mon – Fri)	Individual work.

7. COURSE WORK PREPARATION GUIDELINE

7.1. Quiz (10%) – Conducted via the e-Learning Portal

1. To be completed individually.
2. Conducted online through the e-Learning portal.
3. Scheduled for **Week 7**, open from **17 – 21 November 2025 (Monday – Friday)**.
4. Questions will cover topics from Week 1 to Week 6.

NOTE: Students are fully responsible for completing the online quiz within the specified date and time. No retake will be provided.

7.2. Test (30%) – Conducted via the e-Learning Portal

1. To be completed individually.
2. Conducted online through the e-Learning portal.
3. Scheduled for **Week 15**, open from **12 – 16 January 2026 (Monday – Friday)**.
4. Questions will cover all topics taught on this course.

NOTE: Students are fully responsible for completing the online test within the specified date and time. No retake will be provided.

7.3. Essay (30%) – Conducted at Each Respective School

1. To be carried out in groups: students will be divided into groups of 4–5 members.
2. The essay will be assessed by a supervisor appointed at each student's respective school.
3. Based on the chosen research theme, students must propose a topic to the supervisor, and the supervisor will determine its suitability and grant approval.
4. Students are required to produce an essay of approximately 15–20 pages or 5,000–8,000 words.
5. The essay must be typed using Times New Roman, font size 12, double-spaced.
6. The essay must include a reference list or bibliography containing all sources used, formatted according to APA style.

Essay Assessment Rubric

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	WEIGHT (OUT OF 30 MARKS)	0 WEAK	1 FAIR	2 GOOD	3 EXCELLENT	MAX. MARKS
1. Title	10%	Unattractive and overly general.	Interesting but still too general.	Interesting and specific.	Interesting, specific, unique, and provides an impressive research outlook.	3
2. Data	30%	Insufficient.	Sufficient but with problems with data validity.	Sufficient and validity cannot be disputed.	Sufficient, valid, relevant, and well-connected data.	9
3. Organization	10%	Disorganized.	Organized but with insufficient divisions/sections.	Organized with adequate sections.	Well-structured, with coherent sequencing of sections.	3
4. Analysis and Argumentation	30%	No analysis; purely descriptive.	Superficial analysis.	Appropriate and sufficient analysis.	In-depth analysis with sophisticated and balanced argumentation.	9
5. References	10%	No citations.	Incomplete citations; some sources missing.	Good citation format, but limited number of sources.	Proper, consistent citation format with sufficient and appropriate sources.	3
6. Spelling and Language	10%	Many spelling and language errors.	Some spelling and language errors.	Accurate spelling and language.	No errors, with scholarly writing style.	3
Total	**100%**					**30**

7.4. Presentation (30%) – Conducted at Each Respective School

1. To be carried out in groups: the same groups as for the essay.
2. The presentation will be assessed by a supervisor appointed at each student's respective school.
3. Students are required to present their research findings to the supervisor for feedback.
4. Presentations may be conducted face-to-face or online, as agreed upon with the supervisor.
5. Students must submit their presentation materials to the supervisor in electronic form before the presentation.
6. Each group will be allocated 10–15 minutes for their presentation.
7. The presentation must involve all group members.

Presentation Assessment Rubric

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	WEIGHT (OUT OF 30 MARKS)	0 WEAK	1 FAIR	2 GOOD	3 EXCELLENT	MAX. MARKS
1. Title	10%	Unattractive and overly general.	Interesting but still too general.	Interesting and specific.	Interesting, specific, unique, and provides an impressive research outlook.	3
2. Visual Appeal and Organization of Delivery	20%	Unattractive.	Somewhat attractive but poorly organized.	Adequately attractive.	Highly visually appealing with well-organized materials.	6
3. Delivery Style	30%	Shows no interest in delivery.	Average delivery.	Clear and coherent delivery.	Clear, coherent, and maintains audience interest.	9
4. Accuracy of Content with Research Findings	20%	Irrelevant content.	Content reflects findings but information delivery is unclear.	Most research findings are covered.	Comprehensive coverage, clear, and well-organized.	6
5. Group Dynamics	20%	No cooperation among group members.	All members are involved, but some only read directly from the text.	Well-prepared with sufficient collaboration.	Excellent teamwork and active participation from all members.	6
Total	**100%**					**30**

8. PLANNING OF GROUP COURSEWORK ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED AT EACH STUDENT'S RESPECTIVE SCHOOL

WEEK	ACTIVITY
3 – 4	Appointment of supervisors and formation of student groups. Group discussions and confirmation of assignment topics with the supervisor.
5 – 7	Research work and essay writing.
8	**MID-SEMESTER BREAK**
9 – 10	Research work and essay writing.
11	Submission of essay to the supervisor.
12	Presentation of research findings to the supervisor.
13 – 15	Supervisor submits marks to the school's course representative.

9. SUGGESTED THEMES/TOPICS FOR GROUP COURSEWORK

NO.	TOPIC	THEME
1	Issues related to environmental ethics and global sustainability	Ethics and Environment
2	Issues related to climate change and the moral responsibilities of the current generation	
3	Issues related to green technology and the philosophy of sustainable development	
4	Issues related to bioethics in modern medicine	
5	Issues related to sustainable urban development and the rights of future generations	
6	Issues related to moral responsibility towards biodiversity extinction	
7	Issues related to artificial intelligence (AI) and ethical implications	Technology and Digital World
8	Issues related to the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0) and digital transformation	
9	Issues related to social media technology and its impact on public thinking	
10	Issues related to data privacy and individual freedom in the digital world	
11	Issues related to the ethics of robot usage in daily life	
12	Issues related to digital inequality and the global technology divide	

NO.	TOPIC	THEME
13	Issues related to religion, identity, and harmony in a plural society	Society, Culture and Religion
14	Issues related to students' perceptions of philosophy as a discipline	
15	Issues related to the appreciation of arts and culture in contemporary society	
16	Issues related to globalization and its challenges to national identity	
17	Issues related to consumerism and the philosophy of moderation	
18	Issues related to gender, equality, and human rights	
19	Issues related to governance, democracy, and local politics	Politics, Justice and Society
20	Issues related to geopolitical crises and the philosophy of global peace	
21	Issues related to modern warfare and ethnic cleansing	
22	Issues related to poverty, social justice, and moral responsibility	
23	Issues related to radicalism, extremism, and inter-civilizational dialogue	
24	Issues related to global migration, refugees, and human rights	
25	Issues related to educational goals and holistic human development	Education and Philosophy of Life
26	Issues related to global pandemics and post-COVID-19 challenges	
27	Issues related to the importance of critical thinking for individual and national development	
28	Issues related to the search for the meaning of life among university students	
29	Issues related to loneliness as a global epidemic	
30	Issues related to well-being and the philosophy of human happiness	

- **OR** any other current and contemporary issues with wide-ranging impact, as proposed by student groups and approved by the supervisor.
- Group research projects may be conducted either through empirical/fieldwork data collection or as library/textual research (conceptual or theoretical).

10. SUPERVISION AND MONITORING OF ASSIGNMENTS

1. Each group will be assigned to a supervisor appointed by their respective school.
2. Students may obtain the name of their supervisor from their school beginning in Week 2.
3. Each group will select one topic to be used for both the presentation and the written assignment.
4. Students must maintain regular discussions and communication with their supervisor regarding the progress of group activities.
5. Supervisors will monitor the progress of coursework activities according to the work schedule provided.
6. Any **inquiries or complaints related to group supervision may be directed to the Chief Supervisor** (Course Coordinator Representative) of the respective school, as listed below.

11. LIST OF CHIEF SUPERVISORS (COURSE COORDINATOR REPRESENTATIVES) FOR EACH SCHOOL

BIL	SCHOOL	CHIEF SUPERVISOR NAME	EMAIL
1.	School of Humanities	Dr. Mohd Syahmir Alias	syahmir@usm.my
2.	School of Housing, Building and Planning	Dr. Izyan Yahaya	izyanyahaya@usm.my
3.	School of Pharmaceutical Sciences	Dr. Noratiqah Mohtar	noratiqah@usm.my
4.	School of Physics	Dr. Idahwati Sarudin	idahwati@usm.my
5.	School of Industrial Technology	Associate Professor Dr. Tan Joo Shun	jooshun@usm.my
6.	School of Biological Sciences	Dr. Azlinda Abu Bakar	azlindaab@usm.my
7.		Associate Professor Dr. Asyraf Mansor	asyrafm@usm.my
8.	School of Chemical Sciences	Dr. Ahmad Faiz Abdul Latip	afaiz@usm.my
9.	School of Management	Dr. Rosmelisa Yusof	rosmelisa@usm.my
10.	School of Educational Studies	Dr. Chin Huan	chinhuan@usm.my
11.	School of Social Sciences	Dr. Sharifah Zahhura Syed Abdullah	zahhura@usm.my
12.	School of Communication	Dr. Rani Ann Balaraman	rani_balaraman@usm.my
13.	School of Computer Sciences	Associate Professor Dr. Manmeet Kaur Mahinderjit Singh	manmeet@usm.my
14.	School of Mathematical Sciences	Dr. Ong Wen Eng	weneng@usm.my
15.	School of the Art	Dr. Mohammad Kamal Sabran	kamalsabran@usm.my
16.	School of Languages, Literacies and Translation	Mrs. Nadia Roselilyana Noordin	nadiarose@usm.my
17.	School of Medical Sciences	Dr. Ramlah Kadir	ramlahkadir@usm.my
18.	School of Dental Sciences	Dr. Zainab Mat Yudin@Badrin	drzainab@usm.my
19.	School of Health Sciences	Dr. Mujahid Bakar	mujahid@usm.my

20.	USM-KLE International Medical Programme	Associate Professor Dr. Nik Ahmad Zuky Nik Lah	nikzuky@usm.my
21.		Mrs. Nurfareza Sukri (Administrator)	nurfareza@usm.my
22.	Advanced Medical and Dental Institute	Associate Professor Dr. Ch'ng Ewe Seng	eschng@usm.my
23.	School of Aerospace Engineering	Dr. Mohammad Hafifi Hafiz Ishaik	mhafifihafiz@usm.my
24.	School of Civil Engineering	Ts. Dr. Fatehah Omar	cefatehah@usm.my
25.	School of Materials and Mineral Resources Engineering	Ir. Mohamad Azwan Mad Naseer	srazwan@usm.my
26.	School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering	Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad Nasiruddin Mahyuddin	nasiruddin@usm.my
27.	School of Chemical Engineering	Dr. Muhamad Nazri Murat	chnazri@usm.my
28.	School of Mechanical Engineering	Associate Professor Dr. Teoh Yew Heng	yewhengteoh@usm.my
29.	School of Distance Education	Associate Professor Dr. Shaik Abdullah Hassan Mydin	abdullah@usm.my

12. IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. Access to the e-Learning portal is mandatory. Teaching and learning (T&L), as well as all course-related information, will be delivered through the online platform.
2. Students must **record their attendance online** via the e-Learning portal according to the lecture schedule set.
3. The coursework components Quiz and Test will be conducted simultaneously across all campuses, and **NO RETAKE WILL BE ALLOWED**.
4. Students who fail to complete all coursework components (without valid reasons) will be given a **grade of F**.
5. Students must obtain at least a **grade of C** to fulfil graduation requirements.

13. REFERENCE MATERIALS

Universities Module References
1. Amran Muhammad (Ed.). (2023). *Philosophy and current issues*. Islamic and Strategic Studies Institute.
2. Aiedah Abdul Khalek, & Wong, A. W. W. (Eds.). (2024). *Philosophy and current issues: A comprehensive reference for higher education students*. Universiti Malaya Press.
3. Khairul Hamimah Mohammad Jodi, Abdullah, M. S., Mohd Zabidi, A. Z., & Mohamad Rasidi, M. S. (2024). *Philosophy and current issues: An introduction and reference for public and private university students*. Penerbit Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris.

Enrichment References
1. Collinson, D., Plant, K., & Wilkinson, R. (2000). *Fifty Eastern thinkers*. Routledge.
2. Haldane, J. (2009). *Practical philosophy: Ethics, society and culture*. Imprint Academic.
3. Pigliucci, M., Cleary, S. C., & Kaufman, D. A. (Eds.). (2020). *How to live a good life: A guide to choosing your personal philosophy*. Vintage Books.

WISHING YOU A FRUITFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND EVERY SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE!

Prepared by:

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