**SEMESTER ONE**

**Introduction to Problems of Philosophy PHIL 10020**This course provides an introduction to some of the core issues discussed by philosophers from the ancient times to today. Topics we will examine include: 1. souls, selves and persons; 2. free will, determinism and moral responsibility; 3. relativism and the objectivity of values 4. scepticism and the possibility of knowledge; 5. consciousness and the mind-body problem; 6. knowledge of the existence of God. Selected weekly readings will be made available on Blackboard during the semester. As general background reading, an engaging secondary source overview text is: Simon Blackburn, Think (Oxford Univ. Press, 1999). A good guide for writing essays and learning to think philosophically is the following: Jay F. Rosenberg, The Practice of Philosophy: A Handbook for Beginners, 3rd ed. (Prentice-Hall, 1996), in UCD library.

**Introduction to Moral Philosophy PHIL 10040**This module will explore and clarify certain fundamental concepts of morality and ethics, for example obligations, respect, equality, responsibility, virtue. Our emphasis will be on the way these concepts are deployed in ordinary situations between ordinary people. Particular attention will be paid to the role these concepts play in moral disagreements. We will also consider certain topical moral controversies that invoke these concepts. The module is designed for students with no background in philosophy at all.

**Introduction to Modern Philosophy PHIL 10030**Can I be certain that there is a world outside me, or am I confined to my own mind alone? What can I know about the world, if there is one? And if it exists knowably, how can I live with other people within it? Are we naturally selfish and dangerous? Or do we have a compassionate and gentle nature brutalised by a corrupt society? These are some of the questions to be discussed in this introduction to early modern philosophy of knowledge and social and political philosophy. The way of approaching the questions will be through a critical and historical treatment of selected writings by Descartes (1596-1650), Hobbes (1588-1679) and Rousseau (1712-1778).

**SEMESTER TWO**

**Existentialism and Humanism PHIL 10100**Existentialism and humanism emphasize the freedom of human beings to take charge of their lives. They hold that we have the capacity to make meaning and can deal through our own power with the suffering and meaninglessness that sometimes dominates our experience.  This course will explore the texts of a number of philosophers who have argued for existentialist and humanist approaches. But we will also see that there have been critical reactions to those approaches which have generated a controversial anti-humanist perspective.  Among the concepts this module will examine closely will be the idea of alienation, the death of God, nihilism, and power. A wide choice of study material will be presented: \* Schopenhauer, “On the Suffering of the World,” “On the Vanity of \* Camus, “Absurdity and Suicide” \* Marx on the alienating forms of religion and human experience  \* Adorno on “Education after Auschwitz” \* Nietzsche on “Good and Evil,” “Good and Bad” \* Sartre, “Existentialism and Humanism” \* Barthes, “Death of the Author” \* Nietzsche, “On the Truth and Lies in the Nonmoral Sense” \* Foucault, “Discipline and Punish” Professor Maeve Cooke and Professor Brian O'Connor (both UCD School of Philosophy) will co-teach the course.

**The Search for Meaning: East and West PHIL 10110**This module offers an introduction to philosophy through an examination of major movements, themes and figures drawn from the Eastern and Western traditions. The course is divided into two parts: Western philosophy and Eastern philosophy. Western philosophy will be introduced through a reading of selected texts from figures such as Plato, Augustine, Marx, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche and Sartre. Themes such as the meaning of human existence, the nature of the soul, death and immortality, absurdity and authenticity, will be treated. The Eastern section of the module aims to introduce students to the classical philosophical thought of India and China. By the end of the module, students should have a firm grasp of the basic tenets and arguments of Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism and Buddhism, and should be able to compare and contrast them critically with their Western counterparts

**Introduction to Greek Philosophy PHIL 10070**This module offers an historical and critical introduction to the most important and influential figures and ideas of Ancient Greek Philosophy. The module is divided into two parts. The first part charts the course of philosophy from the earliest Greek philosophers, the 'Pre-Socratics', to the classic figures of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Questions for consideration will include the origin of the universe, the nature of reality, the question of knowledge, man's place in the cosmos, and his ultimate purpose. The second part of the module focuses on Socrates, and his impact on philosophy. Socrates is something of a puzzle: because he himself wrote nothing, any attempt to piece together his thought and character must investigate what his contemporaries wrote about him. We will be examining in particular those writings that bear on the trial and death of Socrates. These include Plato's 'Apology', 'Euthyphro', and 'Crito', a series of short, lively dialogues that offer excellent introductions not only to Socrates, but to the practice of philosophy itself. But we will also consider the depictions of Socrates by the comic playwright Aristophanes and the historian Xenophon. As such, this part of the module will include investigation of literary and historical issues, as well as more overtly 'philosophical' questions.