

Module Title: Understanding Culture: Exploring the Big Questions

Module Code: COM4210

Credit Value: 15

Level: 4

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

The module will introduce students from across the humanities to key theoretical and philosophical issues as they have been approached across cultural, geographical and historical contexts. Drawing on texts from across a range of global texts (from Aristotle and Arendt to Fanon, Marx and Žižek, for example), the module invites students to confront anew the fundamental questions of meaning and value that have vexed human beings down through the ages: what makes a meaningful life? What is my place in the world? How can theory help us navigate the world?

Module Aims

- 1) To give students the necessary background and introduction to major theoretical perspectives in their relation to fundamental questions of meaning and value that have vexed human beings down through the ages.
- 2) To introduce students to fundamental theoretical and cultural texts from across periods, cultural and geographical contexts.
- 3) To develop students' ability to approach an issue from multiple, differing perspectives
- 4) To raise awareness of relationships between texts, the wider questions they raise, and the world we live in.