# Course Unit Outline

Unit Code W7332

**Unit Name** 

The Human Person

# **Unit Weighting**

9cps

# **Type of Unit**

Specialised

# Prerequisites, corequisites

W7106 or W7109

#### **Academic Staff**

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# **Curriculum Objectives**

This course unit examines the philosophical anthropology of major texts and thinkers from the history of philosophy. It takes in classical traditional accounts from a Christian perspective and critical accounts from psychological and other perspectives.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

- a) discuss the views of major philosophers on human nature and human personhood
- b) account for the historical shifts in understanding that have taken place
- c) critically evaluate and appreciate at least one contemporary account of human being
- d) identify and respond to some of the key challenges for a religiously-informed understanding of human beings, e.g. evolutionary theory, neuroscience, cognitive science, and social constructivism.
- e) defend their own reasoned account of what it is to be human.

#### Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit

The human person is not self-evident.

## Content

- 1. Plato
- 2. Aristotle
- 3. Church Fathers (Christian metaphysical)
- 4. Augustine
- 5. Descartes
- 6. Hume
- 7. Kant
- 8. The feminine
- 9. The psychological

# **Learning Activities**

Private study, lectures, seminars, tutorials

### **Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment**

Internet access

# **Assessment Profile**

Assessments tasks are designed both to help students attain the unit outcomes and to enable teachers to assess student attainment. In this unit, the required assessment tasks will enable students to demonstrate how successfully they can:

- 1. Essay comparing classical views of the human person, and the shift from the Graeco-Roman to Christian understandings [Outcomes a, b]
- 2. Essay or seminar on a modern account of the human person [Outcomes a, c]
- 3. Essay on one or more of the key challenges to a religiously informed person of new accounts of the human person. [Outcomes d, e]

### **Representative References**

- 1. Aristotle. *De Anima* [On the Soul]. Translated by Hugh Lawson-Tancred, London: Penguin Classics, 2004.
- 2. Cassirer, E. *An Essay on Man: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Human Culture*. New Haven : Yale University Press, 1944.
- 3. Cassirer, E. The Renaissance Philosophy of Man. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1948.
- 4. Descartes. *Discourse on Method*. [1637] . Translated by Desmond Clarke, London: Penguin Classics, 2003.
- 5. Hume. *Treatise on Human Nature*. [1740] . Edited by Ernest Mossner, London: Penguin Classics, 2004.
- 6. Kant. *Philosophical Writings*. Edited by Ernst Behler. *The German Library* Vol.13. New York: Continuum, 1991.
- 7. Lloyd, Genevieve. *The Man of Reason: 'Male' and 'Female' in Western Philosophy*. London: Methuen, 1984.
- 8. Plato. *Phaedo*. Translated by Trevor Saunders, London: Penguin Classics, 2005.
- 9. Thomas Aquinas. An Aquinas Reader. Edited by Mary T. Clark. New York: Fordham, 1972.
- 10. Nussbaum, M. *Upheavals of Thought: The Intelligence of Emotions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- 11. Taylor, C. *Sources of the Self: The Making of Modern Identity.* Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press, 1989.