Module code	SEL509	Level	5
Module title	How to Think in a Post-Truth World	Credit value	10
Common/Core/ Elective	Elective	ECTS Credits	5
		Notional learning hours	100
Courses on which the module is taught	All	Teaching Period	Autumn /Spring

1. Module description

Learn to differentiate between correct and incorrect reasoning in a world that is often described as post-truth. You will be introduced to the study of reasoning, including the nature of arguments, deductive and inductive inference, validity, syllogisms and the identification of fallacies. The module will emphasise reasoning in natural language and arguments in practical contexts, while introducing you to formal and informal techniques of logical analysis. We will also examine various phenomena and arguments associated with a post-truth world, including the prevalence and structure of conspiracy theories, cultural and ethical relativism, and claims about the political and corporate capture of scientific understanding. You will be challenged to research your own choice of conspiracy theory or post-truth phenomenon and analyse its logical structure, discover its history and detect the stakeholders who are promoted or harmed by it.

2. Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the module you will be able to:

Decision Making (MLO 04)
Analyse and reflect on different reasoning systems, including your own, to inform decision making.

Discipline Knowledge (MLO 07)
Examine and apply argumentative logic successfully, without making major logical errors.

3. Learning and teaching methods

Your learning will take place through workshops and, where appropriate, fieldtrips. The focus of each week's learning experience will be the small and large group discussions, during which you compare your interpretations of the material with your peers. Classes for the module use a range of learning and teaching methods to facilitate understanding of logic, reasoning, and argumentative skills. Classes will include, in-class practical demonstrations, topic-based debates, essential and recommended reading, micro-lectures, and personal reflections.

Learning hours	
Directed learning	**36 hours**
Workshops/classes	36
Guided/Self-guided learning	**36 hours**
Total	100

4. Assessment, formative feedback and relative weightings

Assessment: Oral Examination

Weight (%): 100

Word Count or Equivalent: 5-10 minutes

This oral examination will evaluate your understanding of relevant knowledge from the module, your ability to utilise reasoning skills, and your reflection on how reasoning skills relate to your personal development.

Each summative assessment will be preceded by an opportunity of formative assessment accompanied by formative feedback.

Mapping of assessment tasks for the module										
Assessment tasks	**MLO4**	**MLO7**								
Oral Examination	☒	☒								

5. Indicative resources

Bowell, T.; Cowan, R. and Kemp, G.; *Critical Thinking: A Concise Guide 5th Edn*, ed, Routledge, London, 2020

Burnett, T., *Conspiracy Theory Encyclopaedia*, Collins & Brown, New York, 2005

Cottrell, S.; *Critical Thinking Skills: Effective Analysis, Argument and Reflection*, Red Globe Press, London, 2017

Hanscomb, S.; *Critical Thinking: The Basics*, Routledge, London, 2016.

Hansson, SO; "Science and Pseudo-Science", *The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2021 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2021/entries/pseudo-science/>.

Informal Logic entry in Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy website <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2022/entries/logic-informal/>

List of Logical Fallacies website: <https://bitcoinprimeapp.de/logicalfallacies/>