

# PHIL 7015 THEORETICAL PHILOSOPHY

**Credit Points** 20

**Legacy Code** 102615

**Coordinator** Dennis Schmidt ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Dennis Schmidt/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Dennis%20Schmidt/))

**Description** Theoretical Philosophy focuses on theories of knowledge, theories of being, and systems of thought. While it is traditionally described under the heading of epistemology and metaphysics, theoretical philosophy should be more broadly understood as devoted to philosophical investigations into the underlying systems, theories, and presuppositions upon which any account of the world, experience, or even truth has been built. This subject will be devoted to an explication of either thematically related theoretical investigations, such as, for example, '17th-century theories of matter,' or 'the nature of language,' or it will focus instead on one central philosophical figure, e.g., 'Plato's metaphysics of the soul,' 'Kant's system of transcendental idealism,' etc.

**School** Humanities & Comm Arts

**Discipline** Philosophy

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 20cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

## Restrictions

Students must be enrolled in a postgraduate program.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Identify major philosophical approaches to theoretical philosophy.
2. Analyse primary texts devoted to theoretical philosophy.
3. Apply basic philosophical analyses to specific questions regarding the nature of reality.

## Subject Content

Theories of truth  
 Theories of being  
 Theories of human nature  
 Theories of the soul and the existence of God  
 Theories of material being  
 Theories of language

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

| Type   | Length   | Percent | Threshold | Individual/<br>Group Task | Mandatory |
|--|--|---------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Portfolio<br>- 4 short<br>responses<br>to<br>questions | 2000<br>words in<br>total (500<br>words<br>each) | 35      | N         | Individual                |           |
| Essay - 1<br>research<br>essay                         | 4,000<br>words                                   | 65      | N         | Individual                |           |