

# HPSC2020: Philosophy of Medicine

## Course Syllabus

2012-13 session | Dr Brendan Clarke | [b.clarke@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.clarke@ucl.ac.uk)

### Course Information

This module provides students with an overview of the exciting field of philosophy of medicine. Based on case-studies drawn from contemporary medical practice, the module will engage with six conceptual issues of major importance to medicine. In brief, these are the question of discovery (of diseases and treatments), with causation, with modelling, with complexity, with classification, and with evidence-based medicine. The teaching will be a mixture of lectures, giving topic overviews, critical reading of philosophical and medical sources, and seminar activities, intended to allow students to autonomously develop their analytical skills. This module has no pre-requisites.

This course is intended to be complimentary to a number of other courses running in this department, including HPSC2003: Topics in the Philosophy of Science and HPSC3028: Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Medicine.

### Basic course information

Course website:	<a href="https://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/staff/clarke/clarke-teach/2020">https://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/staff/clarke/clarke-teach/2020</a>
Moodle Web site:	search 'HPSC2020'
Assessment:	one piece of coursework (50%) and one exam (50%)
Timetable:	<a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc">www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc</a>
Prerequisites:	No prerequisites
Required texts:	No required texts
Course tutor:	Dr Brendan Clarke
Contact:	<a href="mailto:b.clarke@ucl.ac.uk">b.clarke@ucl.ac.uk</a>   t: 020 7679 2490
Web:	<a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/silva/sts/staff/clarke">http://www.ucl.ac.uk/silva/sts/staff/clarke</a>
Office location:	22 Gordon Square, Room 2.1
Office hours:	Monday 2-3pm; Tuesday 12-1pm

## Module schedule

UCL	Topic	Lecture date	Tutorial reading	Tutorial date
6	<b>Introduction</b>	01/10/12	Caplan 1992	03/10/12
7	<b>Discovery II</b>	08/10/12	Kuhn 1962	10/10/12
8	<b>Causality I</b>	15/10/12	Evans 1976	17/10/12
9	<b>Causality II</b>	22/10/12	Williamson 2011	25/10/12
10	<b>Causality III</b>	29/10/12	Russo and Williamson 2007	31/10/12
11	<b>Reading Week</b>			
12	<b>Models I</b>	12/11/12	Morrison and Morgan 1999	14/11/12
13	<b>Models II</b>	19/11/12	Ankeny 2007; Griesemer 2004	21/11/12
14	<b>Models III</b>	26/11/12	Leonelli 2008	28/11/12
15	<b>Complexity</b>	03/12/12	Mitchell 2004	15/12/12
16	<b>Testing, testing...</b>	10/12/12	Guyatt et al 1992	12/12/12
16	<b>Essay deadline: 11.59pm, 12/12/12</b>			

## Assessments

### Summary

	Description	Deadline	Word limit
<b>Essay</b>	Research essay	11.59 pm, Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2012	3 000
<b>Exam</b>	Unseen exam	Term 3	n/a

### Assignments

Select a topic based on one of the course themes, and investigate it in a research essay of about 3000 words. Essay topics are to be supplied by you, and approved by me. You are encouraged to discuss your ideas with the course tutor well in advance of the final deadline. Further guidance on essay topics will be given early in the term.

The essay is due no later than Wednesday 12th December 2011, before midnight. It must be submitted through the Moodle service. In extremis, the essay may be submitted via email to <b.clarke@ucl.ac.uk> as an attachment. Your essay must be compatible with MS Word 2003 or

Adobe Acrobat 7.0.

This project contributes fifty percent to the final course mark. No rewriting is available. In order to be deemed 'complete' on this module students must attempt both the essay and the exam.

### **Criteria for assessment**

The departmental marking guidelines for individual items of assessment can be found in the STS Student Handbook.

### **Aims & objectives**

This module provides an introduction to analytic philosophy of medicine. As such, the aims of the module are:

1. to note that there is a degree continuity of philosophy of medicine with general philosophy of science.
2. to argue that careful consideration of historical and pragmatic factors are generally a significant part of doing good philosophy of medicine.
3. to prepare students for further study of this subject.

By the end of this course students will:

1. understand the major issues in the five philosophical topics covered in the course
2. appreciate the role of historical and pragmatic factors in shaping philosophical discourse
3. develop appropriate critical, reading, writing, and presentation skills

### **Reading list**

These are available via the college Reading List service [<http://readinglists.ucl.ac.uk>] and on the module moodle site. They will be updated during the term: students are expected to check for updates frequently.

### **Course expectations**

You are expected to attend the lectures and seminars. There will be reading(s) set for each topic: you will be expected to be familiar with this in advance of the seminar. To ensure that this is the case, you will be required to submit one question about the reading(s) before each seminar via moodle. Further instructions about this will be given in the first lecture.

## Important policy information

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Below are listed some important points of policy. Further details of all these policies can be found in the STS Student Handbook [www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/handbook](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/handbook)

### Late submission of coursework

Penalties for late coursework submission are as follows:

- loss of 5 marks for work submitted less than 24 hours late
- loss of 15 marks for work submitted between 1 and 7 days late
- loss of all marks (i.e. work is graded 0) if submitted more than 7 days late

These rules are statutory and non-negotiable.

### Coursework word limits

Penalties for over-length coursework are as follows:

- Assessed work should not be more than 10% longer than the prescribed word count. Assessed work with a stated word count above this maximum cannot be accepted for submission, but will be immediately returned to the student with instructions to reduce the word length. The work may then be resubmitted, except insofar as penalties for late submission may apply.
- If submitted work is subsequently found to have an inaccurately stated word count, and to exceed the upper word limit by at least 10% and by less than 20%, the mark will be reduced by ten percentage marks, subject to a minimum mark of a minimum pass assuming that the work merited a pass.
- For work which exceeds the upper word limit by 20% or more, a mark of zero will be recorded.
- Footnotes and endnotes **do** count as part of the word limit
- Bibliography, tables, pictures and graphs **do not** count as part of the word limit.

### Extensions

If unforeseeable circumstances prevent the completion of a piece of coursework, students may request an extension to the set deadline. Please consult the STS Student Handbook for further guidance on acceptable grounds for requesting an extension. Extensions must be negotiated in advance with the course tutor. Students to whom STS is parent department may also request an extension from their Personal Tutor. No extension is considered official without written approval.

The request for extension form can be found at: [www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/study](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/study)

### Plagiarism

The *UCL Student Handbook* defines plagiarism as “the presentation of another person’s thoughts or words or artefacts or software as though they were [your] own”. Students are expected to know the College and Department policies in detail and to avoid even the appearance of inappropriate behaviour. In the first demonstrated instance of plagiarism or other irregularities in this course, students normally will receive a 0 F for the course and will be referred to the department and College officials for further action. All course work is subject to scrutiny against past papers and other materials for irregularities. Electronic and other checks

will be conducted; see the *STS student handbook* for additional information.

**Attendance**

Regular attendance is mandatory.

**Requirements to complete modules**

Students are required to be 'complete' in all modules. Normally all assignments must be attempted in order for students to be considered complete. This is different from 'passing' a module which requires a minimum overall module mark of 40%.

**Assessment and additional examiners**

Assessed materials are marked by the course tutors. These provisional marks will be distributed to students at the first opportunity. To ensure fairness, materials subsequently are scrutinised by a second examiner within the Department, and a consensus is reached on these separate assessments. All assessed materials and the consensus marks are made available for scrutiny by an examiner external to UCL. Marks are considered final only after the Board of Examiners for Science and Technology Studies has approved them in their annual meeting near the close of Term three.

**Disputed marks**

Students must endeavour to discuss any grievances over marks informally with the course tutor in the first instance. If informal discussion fails to resolve the matter satisfactorily and there appears to be genuine and substantive grounds for appeal, the student should submit a written explanation of their grievance to the chair of the board of examiners. A final formal written appeal can be made to the College Registrar.

**Mechanisms for student feedback**

Students have a variety of means for commenting on the module and module tutor. These include written module evaluations at the end of term, regular lecture assessments offered by the module tutor, and in-session opportunities. Students are welcome to bring comments and criticisms to the module tutor in the first instance, by anonymous note if necessary, then to their personal tutor or the STS undergraduate tutor. The department schedules regular meetings of the Undergraduate Student Staff Consultative Committee to which all students are invited.

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