

# **Tutorial Letter 101/3/2023**

## **Introduction to Western Philosophy**

### **PLS1501**

#### **Semesters 1 and 2**

#### **Department Of Philosophy, Practical & Systematic Theology**

This tutorial letter contains important information about your module.

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Dear Student

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Department of Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology and to the module Introduction to Western Philosophy (PLS1501). We trust that you will find this module intellectually and philosophically stimulating. This module is offered on a semester basis and the tutorial letter contains information for Semester 1 and Semester 2. Assignments for the two Semesters are different and you must always refer to the correct Semester you are registered for. This tutorial letter is an important document which you must read and refer to for the entire duration of this module. It acts as your guide in the successful completion of this module. It outlines the study units to be covered and the estimated amount of time you may devote to each unit. However, you should remember that this is only a guide and your success in this module will depend on the amount of time you yourself set aside to study. As you plan your study program, you should always take into consideration important dates such as the due dates for assignments and of course the date for the final examination. At the end of each study unit, there are self-test questions you must attempt in order to measure your own understanding of the topic, but these should not be submitted for marking.

Unisa, as a comprehensive open distance e-learning institution (CODeL), is moving towards becoming an online institution. You will therefore see that all your study material, assessments and engagements with your lecturer and fellow students will take place online. This tutorial letter is intended to offer you some guidance in this regard.

The study material for this module comprises of the following:

1. **Tutorial Letter 101**: which is this Tutorial Letter. It contains all the important information and guidelines on completing this module. Please read it carefully.
2. **Tutorial Letter 301**: It contains guidelines on referencing which is required for all essays.
3. **Tutorial Letter 501**: This serves as the study guide for this Module.
4. There is **no prescribed textbook for this module**. Read the Study Guide. Only additional readings are provided in the study units.
5. Other Tutorial Letters on assignment feedback and any other important information that may need to be communicated will be provided online once these are available and an announcement will be made on mymodules to that effect.

## 2 PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

### 2.1 Purpose

To introduce you to philosophy and specifically to the history, figures, problems, and themes in Western philosophy.

To help you develop an awareness of philosophical issues in the academic environment.

To help you develop critical skills necessary for the systematic study, analysis, and evaluation of philosophical arguments.

To help you apply these reflective skills to real life situations in the world in which we live.

## **2.2 Outcomes**

Once you have completed this module, you will have the theoretical competence necessary for undertaking more advanced philosophical studies.

More specifically, you will

- a) Understand the basic theoretical frameworks and dimensions of philosophical thinking.
- b) Develop skills to think systematically and to construct philosophical arguments and counter arguments.
- c) Develop a critical philosophical attitude which will give you the skills to assess various philosophical positions.
- d) Be able to deal with arguments of increasing complexity.

## **3 CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION**

Unisa has implemented a transformation charter, in terms of which the university has placed curriculum transformation high on the teaching and learning agenda. Curriculum transformation includes student-centred scholarship, the pedagogical renewal of teaching and assessment practices, the scholarship of teaching and learning, and the infusion of African epistemologies and philosophies. All of these will be phased in at both programme and module levels, and as a result of this you will notice a marked change in the teaching and learning strategy implemented by Unisa, together with the way in which the content is conceptualised in your modules. We encourage you to embrace these changes during your studies at Unisa in a responsive way within the framework of transformation.

## **4 LECTURER(S) AND CONTACT DETAILS**

### **4.1 Lecturer**

Prof P Mungwini

Email: [mungwp@unisa.ac.za](mailto:mungwp@unisa.ac.za)

Phone: 0124296317

Office 9-102 Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building

Muckleneuk Campus, Preller Street, Muckleneuk Ridge

Pretoria

## 4.2 Department

You are also welcome to contact our administrative officer

Ms. Petronela Sekhukhune

Office: 9-51 Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building

Muckleneuk Campus, Preller Street, Muckleneuk Ridge

Pretoria, South Africa

PO Box 392, UNISA, 0003, South Africa

Phone: +27 12 429 6888

Email: [sekhunp@unisa.ac.za](mailto:sekhunp@unisa.ac.za)

## 4.3 University

Contact addresses of the various administrative departments appear on the Unisa website:

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Contact-us/Student-enquiries>.

Please include the student number in all correspondence

# 5 RESOURCES

## 5.1 Prescribed book(s)

There is no prescribed book for this module.

## 5.2 Recommended book(s)

There are no recommended books for this module.

## 5.3 Electronic reserves (e-reserves)

There are no e-reserves for this module.

## 5.4 Library services and resources information

The Unisa library offers a range of information services and resources:

- For brief information, go to <https://www.unisa.ac.za/library/libatglance>
- For more detailed library information, go to <http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library>
- For research support and services (e.g. the services offered by personal librarians and the request a literature search service offered by the information search librarians), go to <http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Research-support>
- For library training for undergraduate students, go to <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Training>

The library has created numerous library guides, available at <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za>

Recommended guides:

- Request and find library material/download recommended material:

<http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/request>

- Postgraduate information services: <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/postgrad>
- Finding and using library resources and tools: [http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research\\_skills](http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research_skills)
- Frequently asked questions about the library: <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/ask>
- Services to students living with disabilities: <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/disability>
- A–Z of library databases: <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/az.php>

Important contact information:

- Ask a librarian: <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/ask>
- Technical problems encountered in accessing library online services: [Lib-help@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Lib-help@unisa.ac.za)
- General library-related queries: [Library-enquiries@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Library-enquiries@unisa.ac.za)
- Queries related to library fines and payments: [Library-fines@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Library-fines@unisa.ac.za)
- Social media channels: Facebook: UnisaLibrary and Twitter: @UnisaLibrary

## 6 STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The *Study @ Unisa* brochure is available on myUnisa: [www.unisa.ac.za/brochures/studies](http://www.unisa.ac.za/brochures/studies)

This brochure contains important information and guidelines for successful studies through Unisa.

If you need assistance with regard to the myModules system, you are welcome to use the following contact details:

- Toll-free landline: 0800 00 1870 (Select option 07 for myModules)
- E-mail: [mymodules22@unisa.ac.za](mailto:mymodules22@unisa.ac.za) or [myUnisaHelp@unisa.ac.za](mailto:myUnisaHelp@unisa.ac.za)

You can access and view short videos on topics such as how to view your calendar, how to access module content, how to view announcements for modules, how to submit assessment and how to participate in forum activities via the following link: <https://dtls-ga.unisa.ac.za/course/view.php?id=32130>

Registered Unisa students get a free myLife e-mail account. Important information, notices and updates are sent exclusively to this account. Please note that it can take up to 24 hours for your account to be activated after you have claimed it. Please do this immediately after registering at Unisa, by following this link: [myLifeHelp@unisa.ac.za](mailto:myLifeHelp@unisa.ac.za)

Your myLife account is the **only** e-mail account recognised by Unisa for official correspondence with the university, and will remain the official primary e-mail address on record at Unisa. You remain responsible for the management of this e-mail account.

<mailto:>

## 6.1 The Unisa First-Year Experience Programme

Many students find the transition from school education to tertiary education stressful. This is also true in the case of students enrolling at Unisa for the first time. Unisa is a dedicated open distance and e-learning institution, and it is very different from face-to-face/contact institutions. It is a mega university, and all our programmes are offered through either blended learning or fully online learning. It is for this reason that we thought it necessary to offer first-time students additional/extended support to help them seamlessly navigate the Unisa teaching and learning journey with little difficulty and few barriers. We therefore offer a specialised student support programme to students enrolling at Unisa for the first time – this is Unisa's First-Year Experience (FYE) Programme, designed to provide you with prompt and helpful information about services that the institution offers and how you can access information. The following FYE services are currently offered:

- FYE website: All the guides and resources you need in order to navigate through your first year at Unisa can be accessed using the following link: [www.unisa.ac.za/FYE](http://www.unisa.ac.za/FYE)
- FYE e-mails: You will receive regular e-mails to help you stay focused and motivated.
- FYE broadcasts: You will receive e-mails with links to broadcasts on various topics related to your first-year studies (e.g. videos on how to submit assessments online).
- FYE mailbox: For assistance with queries related to your first year of study, send an e-mail to [fye@unisa.ac.za](mailto:fye@unisa.ac.za).

## 7 STUDY PLAN

### Semester 1

<b>Study Unit 1:</b> Conquest and the history of Western philosophical education in South Africa.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501.  Activity: Attempt the Self-test questions in the unit.	10 notional hours  January 30 - 3 February
<b>Study Unit 2:</b> The Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501  Activity: Attempt the self-test questions in the unit.	20 notional hours  6 February -17 February
<b>Study Unit 3:</b> Medieval Philosophy- Augustine, Anselm, and Aquinas.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501  Activity: Attempt the self-test questions in the unit.	20 notional hours  20 February - 2 March



<b>Study Unit 4:</b> Greeks II Plato and Aristotle's Ethical Theories.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501.  Activity: Attempt the self-test questions in the unit.	20 notional hours  5 March -16 March
<b>Study Unit 5:</b> Medieval Ethics- Augustine and Aquinas.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501.  Activity: Attempt the self-test questions in the unit.	20 notional hours  2 April - 13 April
<b>Study Unit 6:</b> The Greeks III- Political Philosophy.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501.  Activity: Attempt the self-test questions in the unit.	20 notional hours  16 April - 27 April
Revision and Preparation for Examinations.	

## Semester 2

<b>Study Unit 1:</b> Conquest and the history of Western philosophical education in South Africa.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501.  Activity: Attempt the Self-test questions in the unit.	10 notional hours  2 July - 6 July
<b>Study Unit 2:</b> The Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501  Activity: Attempt the self-test questions in the unit.	20 notional hours  9 July - 20 July
<b>Study Unit 3:</b> Medieval Philosophy- Augustine, Anselm, and Aquinas.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501  Activity: Attempt the self-test questions in the unit.	20 notional hours  23 July - 3 August

<b>Study Unit 4:</b> Greeks II Plato and Aristotle's Ethical Theories.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501.  Activity: Attempt the self-test questions in the unit.	20 notional hours  6 August - 17 August
<b>Study Unit 5:</b> Medieval Ethics- Augustine and Aquinas.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501.  Activity: Attempt the self-test questions in the unit.	20 notional hours  20 August - 31 August
<b>Study Unit 6:</b> The Greeks III- Political Philosophy.  Reading: Tutorial Letter 501.  Activity: Attempt the self-test questions in the unit.	20 notional hours  3 Sept - 14 September
Revision and Preparation for Examinations.	

Remember that this is only a suggested reading plan the assignment questions and their due dates must also guide you on which topics to read first so that you can be able to respond adequately to the question.

## 8 PRACTICAL WORK

There is no practical work.

## 9 ASSESSMENT

### 9.1 Assessment criteria

During the semester, you will be required to write and submit two assignments which will be assessed following the criteria outlined below. This will be followed by a written examination at the end of each semester. Your essay should comprise of the following:

Introduction	Is there an introduction? Does it spell out the aims of the essay? Does it shed light on the critical aspects of the question and key concepts-typical of philosophy?
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Body	Is the philosophical theme, concept, or problem adequately explained? Are the arguments clearly presented and supported? Does the presentation satisfy the philosophical tenets of coherence, clarity, and consistency? Has the student demonstrated a good knowledge of the reading material? Does the student make use of scholars to support his/her own ideas? Has appropriate content been covered and communicated properly? Analysis and evaluation of arguments: has the student made any effort to go beyond the text and make his/her own meaningful philosophical contribution and or analysis?
Conclusion	Is there a conclusion that sums up the major argument in the essay?
Referencing	Are all materials that have been consulted properly referenced? Is the referencing system chosen being used consistently throughout the essay (whether endnotes; footnotes or in-text referencing) and bibliography?
Overall impression	The essay's overall impression, from well thought out sub-headings, paragraphing, pagination and font size. Has the student adhered to the prescribed essay length?

## 9.2 Assessment plan

- To complete this module, you will be required to submit TWO assessments.
- All information about when and where to submit your assessments will be made available to you via the myModules site for your module.
- Due dates for assessments, as well as the actual assessments are available on the myModules site for this module.
- To gain admission to the examination, you will be required to submit at least one assignment.
- The assignment weighting for the module is 40%.
- You will receive examination information via the myModules sites. Please watch out for announcements on how examinations for the modules for which you are registered will be conducted.
- The examination will count 60% towards the final module mark.

## 9.3 Assessment due dates

- There are no assignment **due dates** included in this tutorial letter.
- Assignment due dates will be made available to you on the myUnisa landing page for this module. We envisage that the due dates will be available to you upon registration.
- Please start working on your assessments as soon as you register for the module.
- Log on to the myUnisa site for this module to obtain more information on the due dates for the submission of the assessments.

## 9.4 Submission of assessments

- Unisa, as a comprehensive open distance e-learning institution (CODeL), is moving towards becoming an online institution. You will therefore see that all your study material, assessments and engagements with your lecturer and fellow students will take place online. We use myUnisa as our virtual campus.
- The myUnisa virtual campus will offer students access to the myModules site, where learning material will be available online and where assessments should be completed. This is an online system that is used to administer, document, and deliver educational material to students and support engagement between academics and students.
- The myUnisa platform can be accessed via <https://my.unisa.ac.za>. Click on the myModules 2023 button to access the online sites for the modules that you are registered for.
- The university undertakes to communicate clearly and as frequently as is necessary to ensure that you obtain the greatest benefit from the use of the myModules learning management system. Please access the announcements on your myModules site regularly, as this is where your lecturer will post important information to be shared with you.
- When you access your myModules site for the module/s you are registered for, you will see a welcome message posted by your lecturer. Below the welcome message you will see the assessment shells for the assessments that you need to complete. Some assessments may be multiple choice, some tests, others written assessments, some forum discussions, and so on. All assessments must be completed on the assessment shells available on the respective module platforms.
- To complete quiz assessments, please log on to the module site where you need to complete the assessment. Click on the relevant assessment shell (Assessment 1, Assessment 2, etc.). There will be a date on which the assessment will open for you. When the assessment is open, access the quiz online and complete it within the time available to you. Quiz assessment questions are not included in this tutorial letter (Tutorial Letter 101) and are only made available online. You must therefore access the quiz online and complete it online where the quiz has been created.
- It is not advisable to use a cell phone to complete the quiz. Please use a desktop computer, tablet or laptop when completing the quiz. Students who use a cell phone find it difficult to navigate the **Online Assessment** tool on the small screen and often struggle to navigate between questions and successfully complete the quizzes. In addition, cell phones are more vulnerable to dropped internet connections than other devices. **If at all possible, please do not use a cell phone for this assessment type.**
- For written assessments, please note the due date by which the assessment must be submitted. Ensure that you follow the guidelines given by your lecturer to complete the assessment. Click on the submission button on the relevant assessment shell on myModules.

You will then be able to upload your written assessment on the myModules site of the modules that you are registered for. Before you finalise the upload, double check that you have selected the correct file for upload. Remember, no marks can be allocated for incorrectly submitted assessments.

## 9.5 The assessments

As indicated in section 9.2, you need to complete Two assessments for this module. [Assignments and due dates will be made available to you on myModules for this module. We envisage that the due dates will be available to you upon registration.]

## 9.6 Other assessment methods

There are no other assessment methods.

## 9.7 The examination

Examination information and details on the format of the examination will be made available to you online via the myUnisa site. Look out for information that will be shared with you by your lecturer and e-tutors (where relevant) and for communication from the university.

### 9.7.1 Invigilation/proctoring

Since 2020 Unisa conducts all its assessments online. Given stringent requirements from professional bodies and increased solicitations of Unisa's students by third parties to unlawfully assist them with the completion of assignments and examinations, the University is obliged to assure its assessment integrity through the utilisation of various proctoring tools: Turnitin, Moodle Proctoring, the Invigilator App and IRIS. These tools will authenticate the student's identity and flag suspicious behaviour to assure credibility of students' responses during assessments. The description below is for your benefit as you may encounter any or all of these in your registered modules:

**Turnitin** is a plagiarism software that facilitates checks for originality in students' submissions against internal and external sources. Turnitin assists in identifying academic fraud and ghost writing. Students are expected to submit **typed** responses for utilisation of the Turnitin software.

The **Moodle Proctoring tool** is a facial recognition software that authenticates students' identity during their Quiz assessments. This tool requires access to a student's **mobile or laptop camera**. Students must ensure their camera is activated in their browser settings prior to their assessments.

The **Invigilator "mobile application-based service** does verification" of the identity of an assessment participant. The Invigilator Mobile Application detects student dishonesty-by-proxy and ensures that the assessment participant is the registered student. This invigilation tool requires students to download the app from their Play Store (Google, Huawei and Apple) on their **mobile devices** (camera enabled) prior to their assessment.

**IRIS Invigilation** software verifies the identity of a student during assessment and provides for both manual and automated facial verification. It has the ability to record and review a student's assessment session.

It flags suspicious behaviour by the students for review by an academic administrator. IRIS software requires installation on students' **laptop devices** that are enabled with a webcam.

Students who are identified and flagged for suspicious dishonest behaviour arising from the invigilation and proctoring reports are referred to the disciplinary office for formal proceeding.

**Please note:**

Students must refer to their module assessment information on their myModule sites to determine which proctoring or invigilation tool will be utilised for their formative and summative assessments.

## **10 ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

### **10.1 Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the act of taking the words, ideas and thoughts of others and presenting them as your own. It is a form of theft. Plagiarism includes the following forms of academic dishonesty:

- Copying and pasting from any source without acknowledging the source.
- Not including references or deliberately inserting incorrect bibliographic information.
- Paraphrasing without acknowledging the original source of the information.

### **10.2 Cheating**

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Completing assessments on behalf of another student, copying the work of another student during an assessment, or allowing another student to copy your work.
- Using social media (e.g. WhatsApp, Telegram) or other platforms to disseminate assessment information.
- Submitting corrupt or irrelevant files, this forms part of examination guidelines
- Buying completed answers from so-called "tutors" or internet sites (contract cheating).

**10.3** For more information about plagiarism, follow the link below:

<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/myunisa/default/Study-@-Unisa/Student-values-and-rules>

## **11 STUDENTS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

The Advocacy and Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities (ARCSWiD) provides an opportunity for staff to interact with first-time and returning students with disabilities.

If you are a student with a disability and would like additional support or need additional time for assessments, you are invited to contact your lecturer at [mungwp@unisa.ac.za](mailto:mungwp@unisa.ac.za) to discuss the assistance that you need.

## **12 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

The *Study @ Unisa* website provides you with relevant study information.

### **13 SOURCES CONSULTED**

Refer to the reference list in the study guide.

### **14 IN CLOSING**

This tutorial letter contains important information for the successful completion of this module. We would like to thank you for choosing philosophy. It is our hope that the module will heighten your ability to engage philosophically and help you not only to become a reflective scholar but a good citizen.

### **15 ADDENDUM**

There is no addendum.