

College of Arts – Online Course Outline Template

Course Code: PHIL *3130	Section: 01	Semester: F12
Course Title: Contemporary British and American Philosophy		
Instructor: A. Wayne		
<p>Brief course Synopsis:</p> <p>Contemporary British and American philosophy was shaped by the formation of autonomous scientific disciplines 100 years ago. Once mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, the social sciences and even psychology are pursued independently from philosophy, what is left? What is philosophy to become?</p> <p>The main answer for contemporary British and American philosophers has been one or another form of empiricism. This course examines this answer through four short books. A.J. Ayer's <i>Language, Truth and Logic</i> (1936) is an influential statement of logical empiricism, the foundation of much contemporary British and American philosophy. Carl Hempel's <i>Philosophy of Natural Science</i> (1966) applies an empiricist approach to the natural sciences. Nelson Goodman's <i>Fact, Fiction and Forecast</i> (1954) presents a devastating critique of the foundations of empiricism. Bas van Fraassen's <i>The Empirical Stance</i> (2002) formulates a new empiricism for the 21st century.</p> <p>Textbook(s):</p> <p>See above.</p> <p>Course requirements / evaluation:</p>		