ARTS1361

Mind, Ethics, and Freedom: Introduction to Philosophy

Term 1, 2022

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Markos Valaris	m.valaris@unsw.edu.au	By email or by appointment. Weeks 8-10, weekly live Q&A.	MB 339	9385 2760

Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
David Bronstein	d.bronstein@unsw.edu.au	By email or by appointment.	MB 344	9385 3669
Jessica Whyte	j.whyte@unsw.edu.au	By email or by appointment.	MB 342	93852341

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Tel: 02 9348 0406

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.

Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous UNSW's Indigenous strategy

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

Philosophy examines the fundamental presuppositions of every area of human life and inquiry. This course introduces you to philosophy by taking up questions about the nature of knowledge, the human mind and its relation to the body, the principles of right action and of a good life, and freedom and constraint in a just political order. We will examine both contemporary and historically influential approaches. This course will help you develop the critical and analytical thinking skills necessary for advanced study and your future career. While this is a standalone introductory course, it can be usefully combined with ARTS1360: Truth and Human Existence.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Correctly apply central concepts in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.
2. Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.
3. Assess the comparative merits of distinct positions in foundational works in Western epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.
4. Interrogate canonical texts in Western epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.

Teaching Strategies

The course is taught through two one-hour weekly lectures and a one-hour weekly tutorial, plus six hours of online activities over the course of the term. The lectures provide background to the texts examined in the course, and explain the central concepts, arguments, and themes. The tutorials provide the opportunity to discuss the readings and topics covered in the lectures. The aim is to get you to develop and practise skills of critcal thinking, argumentation, and communication. Learning in this course is supported by a range of specially developed online activities.

Assessment

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Online Test	15%	Quiz 1: 06/03/22, 23:59; Quiz 2: 03/04/22, 23:59; Quiz 3: 24/04/22, 23:59.	1, 2
2. Critical analysis	25%	20/03/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2, 4
3. Major Essay	60%	01/05/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment 1: Online Test

Due date: Quiz 1: 06/03/22, 23:59; Quiz 2: 03/04/22, 23:59; Quiz 3: 24/04/22, 23:59.

Three-part multiple-choice online test (20 minutes each part) assessing comprehension of central concepts and arguments covered in the course. Each part of the test covers a 3-week span of the course.

Feedback via Moodle (right answers and numerical score).

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Critical analysis

Assessment length: About 700 words.
Due date: 20/03/2022 11:59 PM

A short critical analysis of a selected passage. You will be asked to reconstruct and critically assess the reasoning expressed in the passage (700 words). Marking via rubric with individual written/recorded comments.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Major Essay

Assessment length: Up to 1500 words
Due date: 01/05/2021 11:59 PM

Students select a topic from a list provided by the instructors. Essay to be no more than 1500 words.

Numerical mark, rubric, and written or voice comments.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 14 February - 18 February	Lecture	**Weekly Topics** • Aristotelian Ethics: Virtue and Happiness Lecturer: David Bronstein
	Tutorial	• Aristotelian Ethics: Virtue and Happiness
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Lecture	**Weekly Topics** • Kantian Ethics: Duty and Motive Lecturer: David Bronstein
	Tutorial	• Kantian Ethics: Duty and Motive
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Lecture	**Weekly Topics** • Utilitarian Ethics: Pleasure and Purpose Lecturer: David Bronstein
	Tutorial	• Utilitarian Ethics: Pleasure and Purpose
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Lecture	**Weekly Topics** • Descartes' *Meditations* I and II: Knowledge, scepticism, and illusion
	Tutorial	• Descartes' *Meditations* I and II: Knowledge, scepticism, and illusion
Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Lecture	**Weekly Topics** • Descartes' *Meditations* III and IV: God, error, and free will Lecturer: Markos Valaris

	Tutorial	• Descartes' *Meditations* III and IV: God, error, and free will
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Lecture	**Weekly Topics** • Descartes' *Meditations* V and VI: defeating scepticism; Descartes' dualism of mind and body Lecturer: Markos Valaris
	Tutorial	• Descartes' *Meditations* V and VI: defeating scepticism; Descartes' dualism of mind and body
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Lecture	**Weekly Topics** • What are rights? Lecturer: Jessica Whyte
	Tutorial	• What are rights?
Week 9: 11 April - 15 April	Lecture	**Weekly Topics** • Rightlessness: Natural rights and political community Lecturer: Jessica Whyte
	Tutorial	• Rightlessness: Natural rights and political community
Week 10: 18 April - 22 April	Lecture	**Weekly Topics** • Decolonization, Violence and Inhumanity Lecturer: Jessica Whyte
	Tutorial	• Decolonization, Violence and Inhumanity

Resources

Prescribed Resources

- René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (trans. John Cottingham), Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy

Recommended Resources

The following websites provide authoritative and thorough discussion of topics discussed in this course:

- The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- The Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback for this course will be gathered informally throughout its duration, and formally at the end via myExperience. We are always keen to hear from you what works and what does not. Do not hesitate to contact the convenors, lecturers, or tutors with any comments or queries.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study. Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines

Image Credit

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