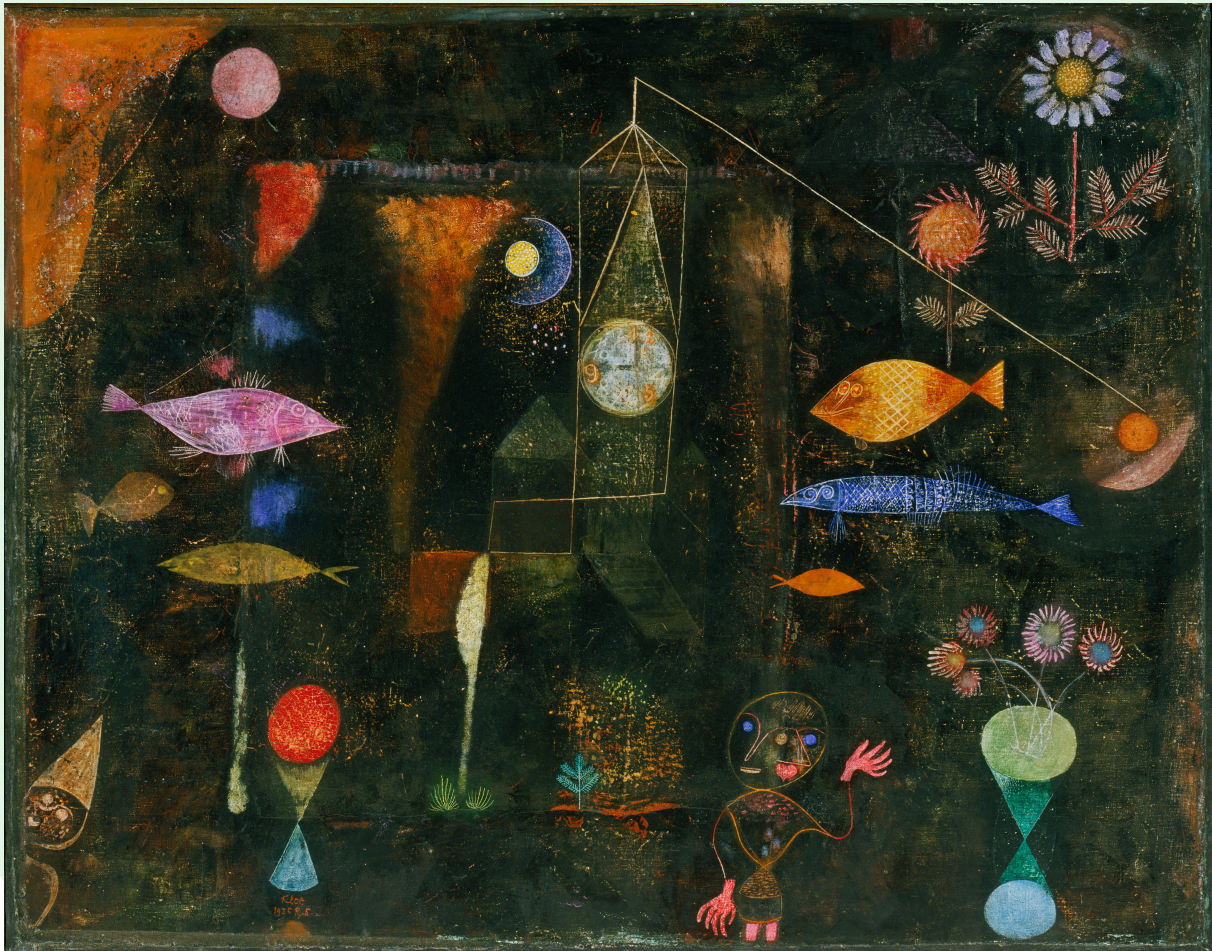


# ARTS3368

Modern European Philosophy

Term 1, 2022



## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Associate Professor James Phillips	<a href="mailto:j.phillips@unsw.edu.au">j.phillips@unsw.edu.au</a>	2-3 pm Wednesdays	Morven Brown 369	9065 1055

### 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](mailto: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**

This course will examine major traditions, themes, and figures in the development of modern European philosophy. Examples of traditions that may be explored include: German Idealism, Phenomenology, Hermeneutics, Critical Theory and Poststructuralism. Themes the course may cover include: recognition, subjectivity, experience, and freedom. Figures that may be examined include Kant, Fichte, Hegel, Adorno, Heidegger, Arendt, Honneth, amongst others.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

1. Explain fundamental themes and concepts in social and political philosophy.
2. Apply critical and conceptual thought to contemporary social and political reality.
3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to the course themes and within social and political philosophy more broadly.

### **Teaching Strategies**

The course is designed to develop your capacity to comprehend and independently engage in contemporary debates on key themes in social and political philosophy. It is structured around weekly readings, lectures and tutorial discussions on the readings. Preparation by reading the set texts is crucial for successful participation in the course. There will be introductory lecturing that provides background information and introduces theoretical and analytical perspectives and debates that are explored in or exemplified by the specialised weekly readings. The tutorials will be extensive and involve in-depth discussion of the readings and related contemporary and scholarly debates and approaches. You are encouraged to participate in the class actively, by presenting questions, and trying to think of answers to the questions posed.

## Assessment

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Short essay	40%	18/03/2022 04:00 PM	1, 2, 3
2. Long essay	60%	29/04/2022 04:00 PM	1, 2, 3

### Assessment 1: Short essay

**Due date:** 18/03/2022 04:00 PM

Short essay, maximum 1500 words. Feedback is provided via individual comments or rubric.

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

#### Additional details

#### Essay topics on the readings for weeks 1-4

- 1) Reconstruct and evaluate Nietzsche's critique of what he calls "Western morality".
- 2) Expound and assess the difference between authentic and inauthentic Being-towards-death in Heidegger.
- 3) Sartre's account of the "the look" (or gaze) has been influential for psychoanalysis, feminist film theory and the critique of Western imperialism. What do you make of it?
- 4) Use Adorno's texts on natural beauty and museums as a springboard for your own critical reflections on art and/or nature in the present day.

Students are welcome to devise essay topics of their own comparing and contrast two or more of the thinkers covered in the first four weeks of the course. But they must obtain the course convenor's approval of the topic prior to submission.

### Assessment 2: Long essay

**Due date:** 29/04/2022 04:00 PM

Longer essay, 2500 words. Feedback is provided via individual comments or rubric. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

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

#### Additional details

#### Essay topics on the readings for weeks 5-10

- 1) Derrida disputes Foucault's distinction between Cartesian philosophy and madness. How does he go

about arguing his point? What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of Derrida's argument?

2) What do you make of the relationship that Arendt sees between truth and opinion in politics and of the different roles she gives them?

3) What does Kristeva mean by the abject? Evaluate Kristeva's claims concerning the pressure that the abject puts on our normal understanding of the subject and the object.

4) Expound and evaluate Agamben's claim that the camp is paradigmatic of modern states.

5) Summarise and review Habermas's defence of qualified toleration.

Students are welcome to devise their own topics but must obtain the course convenor's approval of the topic prior to submission.

## Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 14 February - 18 February	Seminar	<p><b>Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900).</b></p> <p>Theme: sources of morality.</p> <p>Required reading: Friedrich Nietzsche, excerpts from <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> (1887), trans. Carol Diethe in <i>The Nietzsche Reader</i>, eds. Keith Ansell Pearson and Duncan Large (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006), 390-435.</p> <p>Possible questions: What does a moral code reveal about a society and an age? What independence do science, morality and philosophy enjoy from political power?</p>
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Seminar	<p><b>Martin Heidegger (1889-1976).</b></p> <p>Theme: human finitude.</p> <p>Required reading: Martin Heidegger, "Dasein's Possibility of Being-a-whole, and Being-towards-death" in id., <i>Being and Time</i> (1927), trans. John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1962), 279-311.</p> <p>Possible questions: What is time? What changes about our conception of the self if we prioritise existential temporality in what it means to be human?</p>
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Seminar	<p><b>Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-80).</b></p> <p>Theme: the impact of other people</p> <p>Required reading: Jean-Paul Sartre, "The Look"</p>

		<p>in id., <i>Being and Nothingness</i> (1943), trans. Hazel E. Barnes (New York: Washington Square Press, 1992), 252-302.</p> <p>Possible questions: What is the relationship between being looked at and being conscious? How does Sartre explain shame and pride?</p>
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Seminar	<p><b>Theodor Wiesengrund Adorno (1903-69).</b></p> <p>Theme: the place of nature and art in the modern West.</p> <p>Required readings: T. W. Adorno, "Valéry Proust Museum" in id., <i>Prisms</i> (1955), trans. Samuel and Shierry Weber (London: Neville Spearman, 1967), 173-85.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>T. W. Adorno, "Natural Beauty" in id., <i>Aesthetic Theory</i> (1970), trans. Robert Hullot Kentor (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997), 61-78.</p> <p>Possible questions: What does our appreciation (or lack thereof) of nature tell us about ourselves and our times? Is there a connection between how we consider natural beauty and how we consider art? How has the social role of art changed over the centuries?</p>
Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Seminar	<p><b>Jacques Derrida (1930-2004).</b></p> <p>Theme: reason and its others.</p> <p>Required readings: Jacques Derrida, "Cogito and the History of Madness" (1963) in id., <i>Writing and Difference</i>, trans. Alan Bass (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978), 31-63 and 307-10.</p> <p>Michel Foucault, excerpt from Part 1, chapter 2 "The Great Confinement" in id., <i>History of Madness</i>, trans. Jonathan Murphy and Jean Khalfa (London: Routledge, 2006), 44-47.</p> <p>Possible questions: What is Derrida's principal objection to Foucault? What do you make of Derrida's interpretation of Descartes and the familiar story of modern philosophy's foundation in the act of doubt?</p>



Week 6: 21 March - 25 March	Reading	No classes this week.
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Seminar	<p><b>Hannah Arendt (1906-75).</b></p> <p>Theme: the relationship between facts and opinions in public life.</p> <p>Required reading: Hannah Arendt, "Truth and Politics" in id., <i>Between Past Future: Eight Exercises in Political Thought</i> (New York: Viking Press, 1968), 227-64.</p> <p>Possible questions: What is the place of truth in political life? Can freedom of opinion not only be compatible with tyranny, but furthermore enable it?</p>
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Seminar	<p><b>Julia Kristeva (1941-).</b></p> <p>Theme: affect and the constitution of the self.</p> <p>Required reading: Julia Kristeva, "Approaching Abjection" in id., <i>Powers of Horror: An Essay on Abjection</i> (1980), trans. Leon S. Roudiez (New York: Columbia University Press, 1982), 1-31.</p> <p>Possible questions: What are our criteria for recognising the abject? Why does Kristeva turn to literature in her discussion of abjection?</p>
Week 9: 11 April - 15 April	Seminar	<p><b>Giorgio Agamben (1942-).</b></p> <p>Theme: population management.</p> <p>Required reading: Giorgio Agamben, excerpts from "Part Three. The Camp as Biopolitical Paradigm of the Modern" in id., <i>Homo Sacer</i> (1995), trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1998), 119-53 and 166-80.</p> <p>Possible questions: What does the modern phenomenon of the internment camp say about modern states more broadly? What is Agamben's understanding of biopolitics?</p>
Week 10: 18 April - 22 April	Seminar	<p><b>Jürgen Habermas (1929-)</b></p> <p>Theme: multiculturalism.</p> <p>Required reading: Jürgen Habermas, "Equal</p>

Treatment of Cultures and the Limits of Postmodern Liberalism” (2003), trans. Jeffrey Flynn, *Journal of Political Philosophy* 13, no. 1 (2005): 1-28.

Possible questions: Do you agree with Habermas in judging cultures on how well they foster autonomy? What are the social and political costs and benefits of diversity (and who bears those costs and receives those benefits)?

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

The weekly required readings for the course are accessible via Leganto on Moodle.

You will also find lecture notes for each week posted on Moodle after Wednesday's seminar.

### **Recommended Resources**

On Moodle you will find commentaries for each week's primary texts via Leganto.

These make up only a small portion of what has been written on these works. I include them in order to give you some idea of the range of views that critics have developed. I do not want you to treat them as authorities to whom you should defer: it is more in keeping with philosophy if you approach them as interlocutors with whom you conduct a dialogue, listening to what they say and coming up with a position of your own.

### **Course Evaluation and Development**

Students have the opportunity to provide feedback on the course both formally - via the end-of-term MyExperience survey - and informally - via e-mail or face-to-face.

This is the third time ARTS3368 Modern European Philosophy has run. I have changed a number of the readings to include more work from the late twentieth century.

## **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](mailto: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**

Paul Klee, Fish Magic (1925) - Philadelphia Museum of Art.

## **CRICOS**

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