

ARTS2876

Understanding the Self

Term 1, 2023



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Joe Alizzi	j.alizzi@unsw.edu.au	Zoom or in person by appointment	Online or Morven Brown	TBD

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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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

Each of us has a self and an identity by virtue of being human. But do other living beings have a self? Do other living beings have society in the same way humans do? In this course, you will consider some traditional assumptions of selfhood (e.g., the capacity for reason, speech, and memory) from different sociological perspectives. You will consider some interdisciplinary challenges to these assumptions. You will examine arguments for and against extending selfhood to other living beings to add complexity and texture to sociological attempts to understand the self. This course will give you many opportunities to consider the relevance of theories of the self for further studies in Sociology and for other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain key issues relevant to sociological perspectives on the self.
2. Distinguish between sociological perspectives on the self.
3. Apply sociological perspectives on the self to lived experience.

Teaching Strategies

Teaching Rationale

This course is based on the following principles:

- To create an intellectually stimulating space for students that rewards active engagement with challenging concepts
- To read primary texts without the use of secondary sources, commentaries or digested summaries
- To foster dialogue in and out of class between students, and with their teachers in order to create a community of learners
- To read generously
- To create a cooperative learning environment
- To encourage student responsibility to the broader academic community

Teaching Strategies

This course will consist of a two-hour lecture and one-hour tutorial and associated online learning activities.

Lectures: The lectures will combine the techniques of a traditional lecture with the interaction and dialogue typically associated with tutorials. Students are encouraged to participate actively in lectures by questioning and commenting on the course material. Lectures will rely on textual commentary, film and visual imagery to explicate the concepts found in the readings.

Tutorials: Tutorials will be used to organise small groups to establish a collaborative working environment where students can learn from one another.

Assessment

- You will have an opportunity to get early feedback on your first two workbook entries
- You will have online activities that help you develop skills for writing your workbook and essay
- Both assessments rely only on the texts considered in the course
- You will be able to progressively build on your knowledge so that your final essay is informed by each week's consideration of ideas and examples

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Workbook	60%	Part 1: 5 March 2023 11:59 Part 2: 12 April 2023 11:59	2, 3
2. Essay	40%	26/04/2023 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3

Assessment 1: Workbook

Assessment length: Approximately 500 words per week

Due date: Part 1: 5 March 2023 11:59 Part 2: 12 April 2023 11:59

You will prepare written reflections of approximately 500 words on the assigned readings each week. You will submit 6 reflections over the course of the term.

You will receive written feedback, a marked rubric, and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The rubric will be available at the start of term to allow you to work towards clearly defined standards.

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

Additional details

There are 2 initial entries early in the term that are graded but that will give you some preliminary feedback to build upon, and then the last 4 entries later in the term to complete the workbook assessment.

Assessment 2: Essay

Assessment length: 1500 words

Due date: 26/04/2023 11:59 PM

You will write an essay (1500 words) on course themes.

You will receive written feedback, a marked rubric, and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The rubric will be available at the start of term to allow you to work towards clearly defined standards.

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

Additional details

TBD

Attendance Requirements

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

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
O Week: 6 February - 10 February		
Week 1: 13 February - 17 February	Lecture	Introduction Tuesday February 14 Online – See Moodle for details
	Reading	No required reading
	Tutorial	As scheduled
	Online Activity	The first of two online activities designed to support your workbook and essay assessments. This first activity will help you understand the aims of reflecting on primary texts.
Week 2: 20 February - 24 February	Lecture	Thinking the Self – Descartes Tuesday February 21 Online – See Moodle for details
	Reading	Descartes, R. ([1638]1986) <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> (Cottingham, J. [trans]), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Excerpts, pp.12-15, 16-23
	Tutorial	As scheduled
	Online Activity	The second online activity. This is one category that often shows up as a weakness in workbook entries, so engaging in the activity will improve your workbook standards and academic outcome.
Week 3: 27 February - 3 March	Lecture	Society and the Self - Durkheim Tuesday March 28th Online – See Moodle for details

	Reading	Durkheim, E. ([1914]2005), 'The dualism of human nature and its social conditions', <i>Durkheimian Studies</i> , vol.11, pp.35-45
	Tutorial	As scheduled
	Assessment	Your workbook entries from Week 2 (Descartes) and Week 3 (Durkheim) constitute the first part of the workbook assessment, and are due (in one document) on March 5 by 11.59pm.
Week 4: 6 March - 10 March	Lecture	The Unconscious and the Self – Freud Tuesday March 7th Online – See Moodle for details
	Reading	Freud, S. (1989) 'Civilization and its discontents', in Gay, P. (ed.), <i>The Freud Reader</i> , W.W.Norton, NY, pp.722-772
	Tutorial	As scheduled
Week 5: 13 March - 17 March	Lecture	Labour and the Self - Marx Tuesday March 14th Online - See Moodle for details
	Reading	Marx, K (2000) 'Economic and philosophical manuscripts' in McLellan, D. (ed.), <i>Karl Marx: Selected Writings</i> , 2nd edn., Oxford University Press, Oxford, Excerpts pp.83-95
	Tutorial	As scheduled
Week 6: 20 March - 24 March	Lecture	Flexibility Week – there are no scheduled lectures or tutorials this week. In lieu of lecture/tutorial, there are two relevant and interesting readings available and an online discussion forum for those who engage – see Moodle for details
	Reading	As above Provided readings Coetzee, J.M. (1999) 'The philosophers and the animals' in <i>The Tanner Lectures on Human</i>

		<p><i>Values</i>, Delivered at Princeton University, October 15, 1997, pp.113-143</p> <p>Kafka, F. (1971) 'A report to an academy', in <i>Franz Kafka: The Complete Stories</i>, Schocken Books, New York, pp.250-259</p>
	Tutorial	As above
Week 7: 27 March - 31 March	Lecture	<p>The Animal and the Self – Descartes, Derrida</p> <p>Tuesday March 28th</p> <p>Online – See Moodle for details</p>
	Reading	<p>Descartes, R. (1988) 'Discourse on the method – part V', in <i>Descartes: Selected Philosophical Writings</i>, (Cottingham, J. & Stoothoff, R. trans.), <i>Cambridge University Press</i>, Cambridge pp.40-46</p> <p>Derrida, J. (2004) 'Violence against animals' in <i>For What Tomorrow: A Dialogue</i>, Stanford university Press, Stanford pp.62-76</p>
	Tutorial	As scheduled
Week 8: 3 April - 7 April	Lecture	<p>Morality and the Self – De Waal</p> <p>Tuesday April 4th</p> <p>Online – See Moodle for details</p>
	Reading	<p>De Waal, F. (2003) 'Morality and the social instincts: Continuity with the other primates', <i>The Tanner Lectures on Human Values</i>, delivered at Princeton University, November 19-20, 2003, pp.3-39</p>
	Tutorial	<i>Friday 7 April is a Public Holiday. Please consult Moodle and observe all announcements regarding any alternate arrangements for the tutorial.</i>
Week 9: 10 April - 14 April	Lecture	<p>Time and the Self – Bergson</p> <p>Tuesday April 11th</p> <p>Online - See Moodle for details</p>

	Reading	Bergson, H. ([1907]1983), <i>Creative Evolution</i> , Macmillan Press, London, excerpts pp.10-16, and 17-23
	Tutorial	As scheduled
	Assessment	Workbook: your entries last four entries of your workbooks are due, namely weeks 4, 5, 7, 8 (4 in total in one document) are due on Wednesday April 12th by 11.59pm
Week 10: 17 April - 21 April	Lecture	Final lecture - Death and the Self - Becker Tuesday April 18th Online - see Moodle for details
	Reading	Becker, E. (1973) <i>The Denial of Death</i> , Free Press, New York, Excerpts p.ix-x, and pp.10-11, 15-20 (First two pages of the Preface, and the Introduction)
	Tutorial	As scheduled.
	Assessment	Your essay is due on Wednesday the 26th of April by 11.59pm

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Electronic copies of the readings are also available on the ARTS2876 Moodle page through Leganto:
<http://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au>

Recommended Resources

See Leganto

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will be gathered through myExperience surveys, and you will be given opportunities throughout the semester to give informal feedback. *ARTS2876 Understanding the Self* was last taught in 2022. That cohort of students gave positive feedback on the course.

Based on the feedback, the following changes to the course have been made:

1. Content - the content has been modified in order to privilege depth rather than breadth given the pressures of the trimester system;
2. Assessments have been adjusted to provide opportunities greater scope and depth of analysis
3. Some more group interaction will be initiated to compensate from the distance felt through online learning

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, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

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.

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).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

This course outline sets out the description of classes at the date the Course Outline is published. The nature of classes may change during the Term after the Course Outline is published. Moodle should be consulted for the up to date class descriptions. If there is any inconsistency in the description of activities between the University timetable and the Course Outline (as updated in Moodle), the description in the Course Outline/Moodle applies.

Image Credit

Image: Tree ring & human fingerprint

Date: May 2019

Source: Reddit (Accessed 15 January 2021)

URL: https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/grcz20/tree_ring_human_fingerprint/

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