



UNSW
SYDNEY

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ARTS1360

Truth and Human Existence: Introduction to Philosophy
(1A)

Term One // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Michaelis Michael	m.michael@unsw.edu.au	Thursday 12noon - 1pm	Morven Brown Building, Room 325	93852183

Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Karyn Lai	k.lai@unsw.edu.au	Tuesdays 11am - 12noon	Morven Brown room 326	93851194
Heikki Ikaheimo	h.ikaheimo@unsw.edu.au	Thursday 1-2pm.	Rm 321 Morven Brown	93852373

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

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

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course addresses core philosophical questions about knowledge, reality, and human existence. You will examine what it means for something to be true and how we know whether something is true; what are the fundamentals of the universe and the place of science and religion in discerning them; what are the basic constituents of human societies, and how all these questions are related to what and who you are. In investigating these topics we will study the views of both classical and contemporary philosophers. 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 ARTS1361: Mind, Ethics, and Freedom - Introduction to Philosophy (1B).

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain central concepts in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
2. Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
3. Assess the comparative merits of distinct positions in foundational works in Western epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
4. Interrogate canonical texts in Western epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy, and examine how they have influenced contemporary society and institutions.

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 also provide important background to texts, themes, and figures examined in the course. The tutorials provide the opportunity to discuss the readings and topics covered in the lectures and online activities.

Assessment

In all of these matters check with Moodle for the most up to date information related to timing, due dates, etc.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Critical Analysis	10%	28/03/2019 06:00 PM	1,2
Online test	30%	Not Applicable	1
Essay	60%	01/05/2019 06:00 PM	2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Critical Analysis

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 500 words

Details: 500-600 words A critical analysis of a selected passage to develop skills in argument reconstruction (identifying an argument's premises, inferential steps, and conclusion) and critical assessment of the reconstructed argument. Feedback via rubric and a mark.

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

Assessment 2: Online test

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 3 x 20 minutes

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

Additional details:

This divided up into three 20 minute multiple choice quizzes held in week 5, week 8 and week 11. Each quiz consists of 10 multiple choice questions and is worth 10% of the total grade. This will take place online in Moodle.

Feedback will be in the form of correct answers on submission.

See Moodle for Details.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1500 words

Details: 1500 words. A critical research essay on a select topic from the course; students select from a list of possible essay topics. Feedback via rubric and a mark. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

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

Attendance Requirements

Attendance of Tutorials is mandatory in this course. Unexcused absence from more than 20% of Tutorials will result in the award a fail grade.

In tutorials you will actively engage with core course content, enabling you to attain CLO 1.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 18 February - 24 February	Lecture	Introduction: Topics, Assessment Does it matter, and why does it matter? Reflections on life
	Reading	Thomas Nagel: The Absurd
Week 2: 25 February - 3 March	Lecture	The nature and value of philosophy
	Reading	Thomas Nagel: The Two Standpoints Bernard Williams: The Value of Philosophy
Week 3: 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	Intelligent Design? Some reasons for doubt, and an example of skepticism
	Reading	David Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> , Part II.
	Blended	Online mock quiz
	Assessment	Argument Analysis Assessment Assigned
Week 4: 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	An example of skepticism from Chinese philosophy Ontology and Ontological Commitment
	Reading	Karyn Lai: "Zhuangzi's suggestiveness: skeptical questions" in Stephen Hetherington, ed., <i>What Makes a Philosopher Great?: Thirteen Arguments for Twelve Philosophers</i> , London & NY: Routledge Publishing, pp. 30-47 Quine "On What There Is"
	Blended	Formative Argument Analysis Moodle discussion (2 hours)
Week 5: 18 March - 24 March	Lecture	Properties, Essences and Possible Worlds The Metaphysics of Colour
	Reading	Lewis, "Modal Realism at Work"; Galileo "Two

		Kinds of Properties”
	Assessment	Online Quiz 1
Week 6: 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	Causation, Determinism and Free Will
	Reading	Hume, “Constant Conjunction”; Lewis “Causation”
	Assessment	Assessment Analysis Due
Week 7: 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	Time Travel & Truth, Lies and Bullshit
	Reading	Lewis, “The Paradoxes of Time Travel”; Frankfurt, <i>On Bullshit</i> Princeton University Press, 2005
	Blended	Critical Analysis and Writing Skills Moodle (on time/causation) (2 hours)
Week 8: 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	Personhood and Personal identity
	Reading	Dennet: “Conditions of Personhood”. In A. Rorty (ed.), <i>The Identities of Persons</i> . University of California Press, 1976, 175-196. Eric Olson: “An Argument for Animalism”. Inwagen & Zimmerman (ed.): <i>Metaphysics. The Big Questions</i> . Blackwell 2014.
	Assessment	Online Quiz 2
	Assessment	Essay Questions Released
Week 9: 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	Metaphysics of the Social World
	Reading	John Searle: “Social Ontology and the Philosophy of Society”. <i>Analyse & Kritik</i> 20 (2/1998), 143-158. Margaret Gilbert: “Walking Together: A Paradigmatic Social Phenomenon”. In Gilbert: <i>Living Together. Rationality, Sociality, and Obligation</i> . Rowman & Littlefield 1996.
	Blended	Essay Writing Workshop (1-hour online activity)
Week 10: 22 April - 28 April	Lecture	Philosophy and Social Critique
	Reading	Antti Kauppinen: “Reason, Recognition, and Internal Critique”. <i>Inquiry</i> 45, 2002, 479-498. Karl Marx: “Estranged Labour”. Available online: https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/Economic-Philosophic-Manuscripts-1844.pdf , 28-35.
Week 11: 29 April - 1 May	Assessment	Online Quiz 3
	Assessment	Essay Due

Resources

Prescribed Resources

See Moodle for information about access to readings.

Recommended Resources

- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>
- Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://www.rep.routledge.com/>

Course Evaluation and Development

MyExperience is used to assess and to improve this course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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 also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information 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 before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, 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:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and 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 also 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

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

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.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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