



UNSW
SYDNEY

Australia's
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University



ARTS2360

Knowledge and Reality

Term One // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Stephen Hetherington | s.hetherington@unsw.edu.au | Wednesdays 2-3 and by appointment | MB 337 | 93852318 |

Lecturers

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Stephen Hetherington | s.hetherington@unsw.edu.au | Wednesdays 2-3 and by appointment | MB 337 | 93852318 |

Tutors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------|----------|-------|
| Alessio Tacca | a.tacca@unsw.edu.au | tbc | tbc | tbc |

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

Subject Area: *Philosophy*

Nothing is more human than to think that reality gives us knowledge. Nothing is more human than to wonder what, if anything, is real. When philosophy seeks to understand these fundamental and vital aspects of people and the world, we gain both an epistemology and a metaphysics. Some metaphysical topics that the course might explore include these: what it is to be a person; what it is to have a free will (if indeed anyone ever does); whether there is, or even could be, a supremely good and knowing and powerful god; whether there is any meaning to human life; whether there is any harm in death as such; and what makes two different individual things able to be examples of one kind of thing. Some epistemological issues that the course might explore include these: what it is for a thought or claim to be true; what it is for a thought or claim to be rationally well supported; what it is for a thought or claim to be knowledge; what it is to have knowledge via the senses; what it is to have knowledge purely via reason; and whether it might be impossible for us ever to have any knowledge or rational support at all.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from metaphysics.
2. Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from epistemology.
3. Engage critically and imaginatively with those ideas and those ways of thinking from metaphysics.
4. Engage critically and imaginatively with those ideas and those ways of thinking from epistemology.

Teaching Strategies

The course is taught via three hours of lectures, and one hour of tutorials, per week. The lectures introduce students to a series of topics in metaphysics, plus a series of topics in epistemology. The tutorials involve further discussion of those topics, complementing and expanding upon the central ideas from the lectures. In particular, tutorials will highlight and clarify the central concepts, theses, and questions arising in the lectures, and will encourage students to engage with potentially practical applications of those concepts, theses, and questions.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

| Assessment task | Weight | Due Date | Student Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|-----------------|--------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Final exam | 60% | Held in UNSW Exam Period | 2,4 |
| Research essay | 35% | 25/03/2019 | 1,3 |
| Early exam | 5% | 13/03/2018 (Class meeting in Week 4) | 1 |

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Final exam

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Length: two hours, held in the UNSW exam period. Students will engage in a scholarly and potentially imaginative way with some questions that emerge from the course's epistemology component. (This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.) Final exam booklets are not distributed; students may consult with lecturer/coordinator about their performance.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Research essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2000 words

Details: 2000 words. Students will engage in a scholarly and potentially imaginative way with some questions that emerge from the course's metaphysics component. Essay questions available by week 2; discussed at outset with students, enabling them to start thinking about the essay concurrently with the associated lectures; students encouraged to consult during office hours about essay; essay due a few weeks later. Subsequent feedback via individual comments. Further personal consultation about essay available afterwards.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Early exam

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 20 minutes

Details: In-class exam (in tute). Held before census date. 20 minutes exam. Provides early formal feedback for students, to be discussed in subsequent pre-census tute (and in consultation hours, if students wish), once marked.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Attendance Requirements

Attendance both at the lectures and at the tutorials is mandatory in this course. Unexcused absence from more than 20% either of the lectures or of the tutorials will result in the award of a Fail grade.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

| Date | Type | Content |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---|
| Week 1: 18 February - 24 February | Lecture | Introduction + Persons Reading: RKP, ch. 1 <'RKP' = one of the course textbooks = <i>Reality? Knowledge? Philosophy!</i> (Edinburgh University Press, 2003)> M&E, chs. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 <'M&E' = the other of the course textbooks = <i>Metaphysics and Epistemology</i> (Wiley Blackwell, 2014)>> |
| | Tutorial | Persons |
| Week 2: 25 February - 3 March | Lecture | Free will and moral responsibility Reading: RKP, ch. 2; M&E, chs. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 |
| | Tutorial | Free will and moral responsibility |
| Week 3: 4 March - 10 March | Lecture | God and evil Reading: RKP, ch. 3; M&E, ch. 22; plus some readings available on Moodle |
| | Tutorial | God and evil |
| Week 4: 11 March - 17 March | Lecture | Life's meaning and death's harm Reading: RKP, chs. 4, 5; M&E, chs. 1, 33, 34, 35, 36; plus some readings available on Moodle |
| | Tutorial | Life's meaning and death's harm |
| Week 5: 18 March - 24 March | Lecture | Truth and justification Reading: RKP, chs. 7, 8; M&E, chs. 15, 16, 17, 38, 66 |
| | Tutorial | Truth and justification |
| Week 6: 25 March - 31 March | Lecture | Knowledge defined? Reading: RKP, ch. 9; M&E, chs. 37, 39, 40, 41, 42 |
| | Tutorial | Knowledge defined? |
| Week 7: 1 April - 7 April | Lecture | Knowledge redefined? Reading: M&E, chs. 43, 44; plus some readings available on Moodle |
| | Tutorial | Knowledge redefined? |
| Week 8: 8 April - 14 April | Lecture | Observational knowledge and pure reason Reading: RKP, chs. 10, 11; M&E, chs. 45, 8, 47, 11, 52, 53, 54 |
| | Tutorial | Observational knowledge and pure reason |
| Week 9: 15 April - 21 | Lecture | Sceptical doubts |

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---|
| April | | Reading: RKP, ch. 12; M&E, chs. 46, 48, 62, 63, 65 |
| | Tutorial | Sceptical doubts |
| Week 10: 22 April - 28 April | Reading | No class this week. Preparation for final exam, to be held in UNSW exam period. |

Resources

Prescribed Resources

- AIMS includes one required book:
Reality? Knowledge? Philosophy! (Edinburgh University Press, 2003), by Stephen Hetherington.
- The second required book – not mentioned in AIMS -- is
Metaphysics and Epistemology: A Guided Anthology, (ed.) Stephen Hetherington (Wiley Blackwell, 2014).
- Some required readings will also be available on Moodle.

Recommended Resources

N/A

Course Evaluation and Development

(1) Every class meeting -- including all of the lectures -- include ample opportunity for student feedback. I will structure the lectures partly by asking many questions along the way, checking that these are of a suitable difficulty relative to students' philosophy backgrounds, before engaging with students's answers. The lectures will be built partly around these sorts of interaction. Every time that I have taught a version of this course, I have taken into account the previous experience of teaching it in that way, seeking again to direct it even more closely to what students will find interesting, challenging, and rewarding. (2) The mid-term essay will receive written feedback, so that students have some guidance on how well they are understanding, and reflecting upon, the class material at that stage of the term.

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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