



UNSW
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ARTS2362

Alienation and Social Critique

Term Two // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Simon Lumsden	s.lumsden@unsw.edu.au	Monday 1-2pm (Weeks 1-6 only)	Morven Brown 335	0293852369
Heikki Ikaheimo	h.ikaheimo@unsw.edu.au	Thursdays 9.45-10.45am	Morven Brown 321	93852373

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Philosophy*

This course asks how a society can legitimately criticise itself. It examines why it is that notions such as freedom, self-determination and historical progress have come to assume a central place in modern life. Are there plausible ways to judge some particular developments of social life as progressive or regressive? Are some forms of social life 'pathological'? Is the price of modern freedom alienation from ourselves and the natural world? The themes discussed in this course may include: alienation, ideology, modernity, totalitarianism, psychoanalysis and power. Thinkers who may be examined include: Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Feuerbach, Nietzsche, Marx, Lukács, Weber, Freud, Heidegger, Adorno, Horkheimer, Arendt, Foucault and other influential figures in critical social philosophy.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Evaluate the merits and limitations of key approaches to the philosophical problem of modernity and social philosophy
2. Assess distinct positions with regard to alienation, freedom and social critique in key works in Western philosophy
3. Critically appraise the relevance of key approaches to alienation, freedom and social critique in modern philosophy to contemporary society.
4. Develop and enhance skills associated with philosophical inquiry, such as: critical analysis, textual interpretation, argument and written expression.

Teaching Strategies

The course will normally be taught with a two-hour weekly lecture, and a one-hour discussion-based tutorial. Lectures will be interactive, and student participation is encouraged. Lectures will cover key themes and specific texts in modern philosophy, as well as background historical issues. Through a selection of readings, exercises, and small group discussions, the course will develop students' ability to read, analyse, criticise, discuss, and interpret philosophical texts. The research portfolio, which is designed to encourage students to engage thoroughly with the prescribed weekly readings *before* class and to prepare questions for the tutorial, is a core element of the teaching strategy of the course. We expect students to participate in this course by attending lectures, engaging with others in tutorials and online discussions (where applicable) and to complete the required reading in preparation for tutorials and lectures. Tutorials will also discuss research skills and writing skills.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Short essay	30%	26/06/2019 04:00 PM	1,4
Research Portfolio	20%	14/08/2019 04:00 PM	1,2,4
Essay	50%	16/08/2019 04:00 PM	1,2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Short essay

Start date:

Length: 1200 words

Details: This is a short essay, completed within the first five weeks of the course that is primarily a close reading exercise. Students must explain and interpret a key paragraph from a canonical work in philosophy. Feedback is written and/or marking sheet or rubric. Length 1200 words

Additional details:

Additional information will be made available on Moodle.

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

Assessment 2: Research Portfolio

Start date:

Details: A research portfolio where students address issues and questions from their weekly readings for the course. The portfolio is a record of students' preparation for class each week. Students will write as a minimum 6 x 300 word reading summaries and textual analysis as well as a 200 word reflection on the research portfolio itself. The written form of the portfolio is less formal than an essay and may be a mix of prose and bullet points. This portfolio requires students to reflect on their own learning in the course and how assessment tasks, including the research portfolio itself, may contribute to this. Feedback is written and/or oral. Length is approx. 2000 words

Additional details:

Detailed Instructions on the research portfolio will be available on Moodle

Assessment 3: Essay

Start date:

Details: This is the final assessment task for attendance purposes. Feedback is written comments and or a marking sheet
Major essay on a key figure or theme in the course.2200 words

Additional details:

Information about this assessment will be available on Moodle.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not 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: 3 June - 7 June	Lecture	<p>Topics</p> <p>St Augustine: The fall</p> <p>Rousseau: History, progress and the corruption of civilisation, the relation of humanity to nature.</p> <p>Kant: Does history progress or is it static? The quest for wholeness, self-determination, freedom and history</p>
	Tutorial	<p>Tutorial topics are the same as Lecture topics for every week. The readings for each week are in your course reader.</p>
	Reading	<p>1. St Augustine, various extracts From <i>The City of God Against the Pagans</i></p> <p>2. Rousseau, 'Preface and extracts from Part two of <i>Second Discourse</i>'</p> <p>3. Kant 'Idea for a Universal History'</p>
Week 2: 10 June - 14 June	Topic	<p>No Class this week Public Holiday</p>
Week 3: 17 June - 21 June	Lecture	<p>Hegel and Lear: historical development; modern freedom; history and trauma</p>
	Reading	<p>1. Hegel extract from <i>Lectures on History of Philosophy</i></p> <p>2. Extracts from Jonathan Lear's <i>Radical Hope</i>.</p>
Week 4: 24 June - 28 June	Lecture	<p>Freud: The libidinal economy and the emergence of civilisation.</p>
	Reading	<p>Freud, 'Civilisation and its Discontents' Chapters VI-VIII.</p>
	Online Activity	<p>Listen to either Charles Taylor's <i>Massey Lectures</i> (part 3 and 5). You are encouraged to listen to all five of them.</p> <p>Charles Taylor's 1991 Massey Lectures https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/the-1991-cbc-mass</p>

		<p>ey-lectures-the-malaise-of-modernity-1.2946849</p> <p>Or read transcripts of these two lectures, which are in the course reader: "the Slide to Subectivism" and "An Iron cage". You can of course listen to the lectures and do the reading!</p> <p>N.B. You must complete a research portfolio entry on this material.</p>
Week 5: 1 July - 5 July	Lecture	Heidegger: The instrumentalism of modernity, nature as resource, standing reserve.
	Reading	Martin Heidegger, 'Question Concerning Technology'.
Week 6: 8 July - 12 July	Lecture	Arendt: speech and action, history, totalitarianism and modernity
	Reading	Arendt, 'Ideology and Terror' from <i>the Origins of Totalitarianism</i> and, 'The Disclosure of the Agent in Speech and Action' and 'Power and the Space of Appearances' from <i>The Human Condition</i> .
Week 7: 15 July - 19 July	Topic	Critical social philosophy and the concept of alienation
	Lecture	What is social philosophy? What is immanent critique? What are social pathologies? What is alienation? Is human life alienated necessarily, or only under particular social conditions? What is non-alienated life like?
	Tutorial	The young Karl Marx's classic account of alienation. Does it have something useful to teach us today?
	Reading	Karl Marx: 'Comments on James Mill' and 'Estranged labour'
	Online Activity	Watch the film <i>The Corporation</i> , and participate in an online discussion about it. Details to be issued on Moodle.
Week 8: 22 July - 26 July	Topic	Reification and commodification
	Lecture	What is 'reification'? Is all reification bad, or only some of it? Reification of the social world, reification of human beings, reification of nature? How are these issues related to commodification (all things being regarded as commodities)?
	Tutorial	Lukács' classic account of reification and commodification and contemporary social reality.

	Reading	Georg Lukács: 'Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat'
Week 9: 29 July - 2 August	Topic	Ideology and subjectivity
	Lecture	What is ideology? Are my thoughts and feelings affected by it and if so how? Classical and contemporary accounts. Is my subjectivity formed by ideology or other external power structures? Are there ways to resist?
	Tutorial	Althusser's account of 'ideological interpellation' to subjecthood. Its strengths and weaknesses.
	Reading	Louis Althusser: 'Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses'.
Week 10: 5 August - 9 August	Topic	Psychoanalysis and social life
	Lecture	Is society to blame for all human evil, or are there deep sources for aggression built in the human psychic structure? Views by Sigmund Freud, Melanie Klein and others.
	Tutorial	Adorno and a Freudian view of fascism.
	Reading	Theodor Adorno: 'Freudian Theory and the Pattern of Fascist Propaganda'
Week 11: 12 August - 16 August	Topic	Recognition and the good life
	Lecture	What is recognition? Why do we want/need it? What is its significance for evaluation and critique of societies or social life?
	Tutorial	Honneth's account of the different forms of recognition.
	Reading	Axel Honneth: <i>The Struggle for Recognition</i> , chapter 5.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Course reader, to be purchased from the UNSW bookshop.

Recommended Resources

Material will be available on Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is collected through 'MyExperience' and the Research Portfolio, and used for future improvements of the course. There is no previous feedback for this course as this is the first time this course is offered.

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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