



UNSW
SYDNEY

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University



ARTS3360

Philosophy Capstone: Examining Pivotal Texts

Term Three // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
David Bronstein	d.bronstein@unsw.edu.au	Tuesday 11am-12pm	Office: MB 344	9385 3669

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*

In the capstone, you will consolidate your grasp of the discipline of philosophy by examining a pivotal text in the history of philosophy that (a) weighs in on the relation between the two main streams of the discipline (mind/metaphysics/epistemology and value theory); and (b) has been broadly influential upon contemporary philosophical debates and practices. The selected text may vary from semester to semester, but some representative examples would include: Spinoza's *Ethics*, Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature*, Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. The selected text will be examined with respect to: its historical context; its integrity as a unified and systematic work; the independent power of its arguments; the implications of these arguments for other areas of humanistic inquiry; and the enduring influence of the text over contemporary debates and philosophical practice. The practical apprenticeship of the subject will be developed by introducing students to the variety of research practices of the discipline and encouraging students to reflect upon those practices in the development of a sustained and integrated research project. You will refine your skills for focused analytic writing that will serve you in a range of future career paths, both academic and non-academic.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the central doctrines of the source text for the course
2. Identify philosophical arguments (isolating premises, inferences, and conclusion) in the source text, and evaluate their soundness
3. Interpret the core claims of the source text, and assess their bearing on other areas of philosophy and humanistic inquiry
4. Debate the interpretation of the source text, and appraise competing interpretations
5. Conduct independent research in philosophy

Teaching Strategies

This course is designed to consolidate your grasp of the unity and breadth of philosophical inquiry through examining a text that has had a profound impact on contemporary philosophical practice. It is also designed to help you develop skills for independent philosophical inquiry and research. It will help you further develop your skills for clear, analytical writing, which will be of use in your future career (whether academic or non-academic). This course is taught as a seminar in a three-hour block. While some time will be devoted to lecture-style delivery, sessions will also regularly involve close hands-on work with the texts, group discussion, and both informal and organised debates.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Midterm Test	10%	18/10/2019 05:00 PM	1,3,4
Essay 1	30%	25/10/2019 11:00 PM	1,2,3,4,5
Critical Reading Exercise	25%	01/10/2019 11:00 PM	1,2,3,4,5
Essay 2	35%	29/11/2019 11:00 PM	1,2,3,4,5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Midterm Test

Start date: 18/10/2019 09:00 AM

Details: Students will respond to short answer questions online. The test will be 60 min. Feedback via general discussion. Individual feedback available upon request.

Assessment 2: Essay 1

Start date:

Details: 2000 words. A focused research essay on a topic of the student's choosing, vetted by instructor, addressing an interpretive puzzle in the source text and demonstrating knowledge of its relevance to contemporary debates. Written feedback and a mark.

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

Assessment 3: Critical Reading Exercise

Start date:

Details: 900 word essay, critically analysing an argument in the source text prior to our having discussed it as a class, drawing on what you have learned so far about the text. Feedback via rubric, individual comments, and a mark.

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

Assessment 4: Essay 2

Start date:

Details: In Week 10, students will submit another 2500 word essay. Written feedback and a mark. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

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

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: 16 September - 20 September	Reading	Tuesday: Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics I.1-7
	Reading	Thursday: Nicomachean Ethics I.8-13
Week 2: 23 September - 27 September	Reading	Tuesday: review Nicomachean Ethics I; secondary literature TBA
	Reading	Thursday: Nicomachean Ethics X.6-8
Week 3: 30 September - 4 October	Assessment	Critical reading assignment due Tuesday October 1st at 11:00pm
	Reading	Thursday: Nicomachean Ethics II.1-4, X.9
Week 4: 7 October - 11 October	Reading	Tuesday: Nicomachean Ethics II.5-9
	Reading	Thursday: Nicomachean Ethics II.5-9, III.1
Week 5: 14 October - 18 October	Reading	Tuesday: Nicomachean Ethics III.1-5
	Reading	Thursday: Nicomachean Ethics III.1-5
	Assessment	Online quiz, Friday October 18th
Week 6: 21 October - 25	Assessment	First essay due, Friday October 25th at 11:00pm

October		
Week 7: 28 October - 1 November	Reading	Tuesday: Nicomachean Ethics III.6-12
	Reading	Thursday: Nicomachean Ethics IV
Week 8: 4 November - 8 November	Reading	Tuesday: Nicomachean Ethics VI
	Reading	Thursday: Nicomachean Ethics VI; secondary literature TBA
Week 9: 11 November - 15 November	Reading	Tuesday: Nicomachean Ethics VII.1-10
	Reading	Thursday: Nicomachean Ethics VIII
Week 10: 18 November - 22 November	Reading	Tuesday: Nicomachean Ethics IX
	Seminar	Review
Week 11: 25 November - 29 November	Assessment	Second essay due, Friday November 29th at 11:00pm

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*. Second edition. Translated by Terence Irwin. Hackett. [available at UNSW bookstore]

Other required readings available through Leganto as indicated in course schedule -- look on Moodle for the link to Leganto.

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

Please come talk to me about any issues having to do with course administration, and be sure to fill out your My Experience survey at the end -- all feedback is instrumental to developing and improving the 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/>

Image Credit

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