



Australia's
Global
University



ARTS2360

Knowledge and Reality

Term Three // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Alessio Tacca	a.tacca@unsw.edu.au	Friday 13-14 (or by appointment)		

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

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

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

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
Early exam	5%	09/10/2020	1
Research essay	35%	26/10/2020 11:59 PM	1,3
Final exam	60%	Formal Exam Period	2,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Early exam

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 20 mins

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.

Assessment 2: Research essay

Start date: Week 2

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 can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: 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

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: 14 September - 18 September	Lecture	Introduction + Persons Reading: RKP, ch. 1 ('RKP' = one of the course textbooks = Reality? Knowledge? Philosophy!) M&E, chs. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 ('M&E' = the other of the course textbooks = Metaphysics and Epistemology)
	Tutorial	Persons
Week 2: 21 September - 25 September	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: 28 September - 2 October	Lecture	God and evil Reading: RKP, ch. 3; M&E, ch. 22; plus some readings available on Moodle.
	Tutorial	God and evil
Week 4: 5 October - 9 October	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
	Assessment	Early exam
Week 5: 12 October - 16 October	Lecture	Truth and justification Reading: RKP, chs. 7, 8; M&E, chs. 15, 17, 38, 66 + some readings available on Moodle.
Week 7: 26 October - 30 October	Lecture	Knowledge defined? Reading: RKP, ch. 9; M&E, chs. 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44 + plus some readings available on Moodle.
	Tutorial	Knowledge defined?
	Assessment	Research essay due 26 October.
Week 8: 2 November - 6 November		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: 9 November - 13 November	Lecture	Sceptical doubts Reading: RKP, ch. 12; M&E, chs. 46, 48, 61, 62, 63, 65
	Tutorial	Sceptical doubts
Week 10: 16 November - 20 November	Lecture	Living with scepticism Reading: available on Moodle.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Most of the readings for this course will be from the following two textbooks:

- Reality? Knowledge? Philosophy! (Edinburgh University Press, 2003), by Stephen Hetherington
- Metaphysics and Epistemology: A Guided Anthology, (WileyBlackwell, 2014), edited by Stephen Hetherington

Recommended Resources

Not available

Course Evaluation and Development

This course will be formally evaluated through UNSW's myExperience process. Feedback from this survey is used by the school and individual teachers to inform course design and teaching practice. We are also open at any time during the term to comments and suggestions about the course.

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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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.