



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



# ARTS2383

Ethics: Theory and Practice

Term Three // 2020

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jeremy Moss	<a href="mailto:jmoss@unsw.edu.au">jmoss@unsw.edu.au</a>		MB322	93852357

#### Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Daniel Burkett	<a href="mailto:daniel.burkett@unsw.edu.au">daniel.burkett@unsw.edu.au</a>	By appointment	MB318	93852034

### School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

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Email: [hal@unsw.edu.au](mailto:hal@unsw.edu.au)

## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

In this course you will consider some of the most pressing practical ethical issues faced by society and by individual people in their everyday lives. We will analyse the ethical arguments behind issues such as (but not limited to): climate change, international aid, the market, new technologies or disability. The course will introduce you to key concepts in ethics such as responsibility, justice and well-being. You will be encouraged to examine your own ethical beliefs in the light of these concepts and consider the role that ethics can play in everyday life.

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and explain the main ethical issues that arise when considering topics in applied ethics and our individual collective obligations to produce effective change.
2. Apply philosophical methods to examine and evaluate various dimensions of an issue pertaining to topics in applied ethics.
3. Distinguish and evaluate frameworks for personal and collective decision making in relation to topics in applied ethics.
4. Read and comprehend major philosophical texts, historical and contemporary, examining personal and collective moral obligations.
5. Write clear and cogent analyses of various issues in moral philosophy.

### Teaching Strategies

The mode of delivery will be two hours of lectures and 1 hour of tutorial.

Through a selection of readings, exercises, small group discussions, and modelling, this course aims to develop skills in philosophical reasoning and teach students key concepts in moral philosophy.

We expect students to participate in this course by attending lectures, engaging with others in tutorials, and completing the required reading in preparation for tutorials. The purpose of lectures in this course will introduce and develop philosophical concepts, and apply these to issues of applied ethics. Lectures will also include class discussions.

Tutorials in this course will take place in the hour following the lecture and discuss material covered therein. The purpose of tutorials is to provide an opportunity for students to collectively clarify philosophical concepts and critically discuss material covered in lectures. Students taking this course will develop skills of interpretation, critical thinking, and argument. Hence, students will be expected to read the set material before class, critically analyse the material, and allow it to challenge their own beliefs.

# Assessment

## Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Final essay	60%	27/11/2020 04:00 PM	1,2,3,4,5
In-class test	10%	29/09/2020 09:00 AM	1,2,5
Essay	30%	16/10/2020 04:00 PM	1,2,3,4

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: Final essay

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:**

Students write a 2,500 word essay. Students will receive individual comments. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

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

### Assessment 2: In-class test

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:**

Students complete a test with short answer questions, equivalent to ca. 500 words in total. Students will receive a mark and feedback via in class discussion.

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

### Assessment 3: Essay

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:**

Students write a 1,500 word essay. Students will receive individual comments.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can 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: 14 September - 18 September	Lecture	<b>Week 1 - Introduction to Philosophical Argumentation and Ethical Theories:</b> An introduction to constructing philosophical arguments and assessing the arguments of others. This will include a discussion of the concepts of “validity” and “soundness” and a brief examination of the usefulness of thought experiments. An overview of several competing ethical theories will also be given, including (but not limited to) consequentialism, Kantianism, contractarianism, and virtue ethics.
Week 2: 21 September - 25 September	Lecture	<b>Week 2 - Abortion:</b> A discussion of the ethical issues surrounding abortion.
Week 3: 28 September - 2 October	Lecture	<b>Week 3 - Cloning and Genetic Enhancement:</b> A discussion of the ethical issues surrounding cloning and genetic enhancement, including the morality of selecting the sex and traits of one's own offspring.
Week 4: 5 October - 9 October	Lecture	<b>Week 4 - Punishment and the Death Penalty:</b> A discussion of the potential moral justifications for punishment, with a special focus on the ethical issues surrounding the death penalty.
Week 5: 12 October - 16 October	Lecture	<b>Week 5 - Euthanasia:</b> A discussion of the ethical issues surrounding intentionally ending a life in order to relieve pain and suffering.
Week 6: 19 October - 23 October	Lecture	<b>Week 6 - NO CLASS</b>
Week 7: 26 October - 30 October	Lecture	<b>Week 7 - Climate Change and the Global Carbon Budget:</b> The carbon budget (CB) is the amount of remaining greenhouse gases (GHGs) that the world can emit and still avoid dangerous climate change. This lecture will include: a discussion of how the CB can be a tool to aid a just distribution of climate harms and benefits; an outline of the problems associated with dividing the CB; and an introduction to distributive justice and the historical responsibility, ability to pay, and equal per capita proposals. We will look at what countries have actually pledged and whether these pledges are sufficient.

Week 8: 2 November - 6 November	Lecture	<b>Week 8 - Global Poverty:</b> A discussion of the ethical issues surrounding global poverty, including the obligations that we each have to respond to such crises by giving aid.
Week 9: 9 November - 13 November	Lecture	<b>Week 9 - War and Torture:</b> A brief discussion of the ethics of war, followed by an in-depth consideration of when - if ever - torture can be morally justified.
Week 10: 16 November - 20 November	Lecture	<b>Week 10 - The Ethical Treatment of Animals:</b> A consideration of what - if any - interests non-human animals might have, and what role these interests might play when considering the morality of consuming animal products and the moral defensibility of zoos.

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

Not available

### **Recommended Resources**

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>

## **Course Evaluation and Development**

### **Feedback:**

Students will be provided with a mark for the in-class test. Questions will be short answer and in class feedback will be given. Students will receive individual comments and a grade for the essay components of the course. The grade will be consistent with the essay rubric provided in this document.

## **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](mailto: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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## CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

## Acknowledgement of Country

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