ARTS2389

Philosophy as a Way of Life

Summer // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
David Bronstein	d.bronstein@unsw.edu.au		MB344	

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

How can I live a good life? This course will introduce you to some of the diverse philosophical traditions that have thought deeply and rigorously about how to live a good human life. We will approach these traditions not simply as a series of texts to be studied but also as a set of principles to be lived. Course activities may therefore include living like a Stoic or a Confucian for a week. Philosophical traditions and topics studied may include: Ancient Chinese, Greek, and Roman philosophy; existentialism; virtue and happiness; social recognition; death and dying.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain some of the central theories of the good life from diverse philosophical traditions
2. Analyse critically with historical and contemporary texts in ethics and related areas
3. Appreciate how philosophical theories can be applied to everyday life

Teaching Strategies

This course is run as seminars, with a mix of short lectures, class-wide discussion, and small-group discussion. The short lectures provide important background to, and explain key concepts in, the readings. The class-wide and small-group discussions provide the opportunity to explore and debate the readings and topics in depth. Participation in class-wide and small-group discussion is an essential part of learning in this course.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Discussion forum posts	40%	Not Applicable	1, 2
Final essay	60%	01/02/2021 05:00 PM	1, 2, 3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Discussion forum posts

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

8 reflection posts (max 100 words each) on the course discussion forum. Feedback via mark and responses from the instructor on the discussion forum.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Final essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

2000–2500 words. Students select one of the theories of the good life discussed in the course and explain, apply, and critically evaluate its central principles. Feedback via mark and individual comments.

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
Mon 4 Jan	Reading	Plato, *Apology*
Tue 5 Jan	Reading	Plato, *Phaedo* (selections)
Wed 6 Jan	Reading	Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (selections)
Thu 7 Jan	Reading	Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (selections)
Mon 11 Jan	Reading	Stoicism: Epictetus, *Handbook*
Tue 12 Jan	Reading	Stoicism: Epictetus, *Discourses* (selections)
Wed 13 Jan	Reading	Stoicism: Seneca, *Letters* (selections)
Thu 14 Jan	Reading	Stoicism: Seneca, *Letters* (selections)
Mon 18 Jan	Reading	Epicureanism: Epicurus (selections)
Tue 19 Jan	Reading	Epicureanism: Epicurus (selections)
Wed 20 Jan	Reading	The Cynics (selections)
Thu 21 Jan	Reading	Skepticism: Sextus Empiricus, *Outlines of Pyrrhonism* (selections)
Mon 25 Jan	Seminar	Review

Resources

Prescribed Resources

The course convenor will arrange for students to have access to all readings.

Recommended Resources

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry on Ancient Ethical Theory:

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-ancient/

Course Evaluation and Development

Please come talk to the course convenor 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

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.