



ARTS1360

Truth and Human Existence: Introduction to Philosophy

Term Two // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Heikki Ikaheimo	h.ikaheimo@unsw.edu.au	Email for appointment	Morven Brown Building, Room 321	(02) 90651861

Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Karyn Lai	k.lai@unsw.edu.au	Email for appointment	Morven Brown, Room 326	(02) 90655421
Simon Lumsden	s.lumsden@unsw.edu.au	Email for appointment	Morven Brown, Room 335	(02) 9065 9747

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

This course addresses core philosophical questions about knowledge, reality, and human existence. You will examine what it means for something to be true and how we know whether something is true; what are the fundamentals of the universe and the place of science and religion in discerning them; what are the basic constituents of human societies, and how all these questions are related to what and who you are. In investigating these topics we will study the views of both classical and contemporary philosophers. This course will help you develop the critical and analytical thinking skills necessary for advanced study and your future career. While this is a standalone introductory course, it can be usefully combined with ARTS1361: Mind, Ethics, and Freedom - Introduction to Philosophy.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain central concepts in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
2. Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
3. Assess the comparative merits of distinct positions in foundational works in Western epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
4. Interrogate canonical texts in Western epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy, and examine how they have influenced contemporary society and institutions.

Teaching Strategies

The course is taught through two one-hour weekly lectures and a one-hour weekly tutorial, plus six hours of online activities over the course of the term. The lectures also provide important background to texts, themes, and figures examined in the course. The tutorials provide the opportunity to discuss the readings and topics covered in the lectures and online activities.

Assessment

Full up to date information on all assessments will be published on the course Moodle page.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Critical Analysis	25%	02/07/2021 03:00 PM	1, 2
Quiz	15%	Not Applicable	1
Major essay	60%	12/08/2021 11:59 PM	2, 3, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Critical Analysis

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 700 words

Details:

Short written argument analysis (700 words).

Feedback via rubric/mark and written feedback.

Additional details:

Students are expected to analyse one or two text passages, reflecting on various aspects of the passage including (but not limited to) its argument, argument strategy or style, its conclusion, and its strengths and weaknesses. There will be guided practice on analysis in lectures and tutorials.

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

Assessment 2: Quiz

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 3 x 20 minutes

Details:

The quiz will be in 3 parts (3 x 20 minutes), corresponding to the three topic areas in the course, taught by three lecturers.

Mark with correct answers.

Additional details:

See the course Moodle page for the quiz dates and advice.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Major essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1500 words

Details:

1500 words. A critical research essay on a select topic from the course; students select from a list of possible essay topics. Feedback via rubric and a mark.

This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

Additional details:

Advice on essay writing will be provided on the course Moodle page and in the tutorials.

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: 31 May - 4 June	Lecture	Scepticism and philosophy: intelligent design Lecturer: Karyn Lai
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Lecture	The value of philosophy Lecturer: Karyn Lai
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Lecture	The nature of philosophy: stepping back Lecturer: Karyn Lai
	Assessment	Online quiz 1: due Friday, June 18, 11:59pm
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Lecture	What does it mean to be a person? Lecturer: Heikki Ikäheimo
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Lecture	Metaphysics of the Social World: what is the world in which we live made of? Lecturer: Heikki Ikäheimo
	Assessment	Critical analysis: due Friday, July 2, 11:59pm
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Lecture	Philosophy and Social Critique: how to evaluate and criticize social reality so that it actually makes a difference? Lecturer: Heikki Ikäheimo
	Assessment	Online quiz 2: due Friday, July 16, 11:59pm
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Lecture	Humanity, nature and the origins of civilisation Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Lecture	Anxiety and Existence Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Lecture	Freedom and existence Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
	Assessment	Online quiz 3: due Friday, August 6, 11:59pm

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All readings will be available through a link on the course Moodle page.

Recommended Resources

- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>
- Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://iep.utm.edu/>

Course Evaluation and Development

MyExperience is used to assess and to improve this 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.