



# **ARTS3377**

Advanced Topics in Political Philosophy

Term Two // 2021

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jeremy Moss	<a href="mailto:j.moss@unsw.edu.au">j.moss@unsw.edu.au</a>		322 Morven Brown	

### School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

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Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

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

## **Course Details**

### **Credit Points 6**

### **Summary of the Course**

This course will provide you with an in-depth engagement with selected themes in political philosophy. It will develop your understanding of some of the fundamental social and political challenges human societies face, how to address them philosophically, as well as key figures in this tradition. Issues that may be addressed include: individual and collective identity, civil society, rights, the relation of the individual to the state, power, freedom, sociality, recognitive and distributive justice, authority, the constitution of subjectivity, among others.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

1. Explain theories and arguments from political philosophy
2. Apply philosophical concepts and arguments to contemporary problems and their proposed solutions
3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different philosophical approaches to complex political problems
4. Apply skills of scholarly inquiry associated with the study of philosophy
5. Communicate and debate complex ideas

### **Teaching Strategies**

The course is designed to develop your capacity to comprehend and independently engage in classical and contemporary debates on key themes in political philosophy. It is structured around weekly readings, lectures and tutorial discussions on the readings. Preparation by reading the set texts is crucial for successful participation in the course. There will be introductory lectures that provide background information and introduce theoretical and analytical perspectives, and subsequent lectures will explore, with the aid of specialised weekly readings, key debates in social and political philosophy. The tutorials will be extensive and involve in-depth discussion of the readings and related contemporary and historical debates and approaches. You are encouraged to participate in the class actively, by presenting questions, and trying to think of answers to the questions posed.

## Assessment

Students are permitted to use any of the major referencing systems provided all relevant information is present.

### Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Mid-term essay	40%	24/06/2021 04:00 PM	1, 2, 3
Final essay	60%	11/08/2021 04:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

### Assessment Details

#### Assessment 1: Mid-term essay

##### Details:

Students will be expected to critically engage with a key text or problem. Individual written feedback will be provided.

#### Assessment 2: Final essay

##### Details:

Students will utilise the skills learnt in the course to analyse a key problem discussed in the course. Individual written feedback will be provided.

## 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	This week will be an introduction to the role of political philosophy in analysing major social issues. It will include a summary of some of the key ethical frameworks to be used throughout the course, including distributive justice, the harm principle, and individual duties.
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Lecture	This week will introduce students to the nature and significance of the concept of equality as it is used in contemporary debates in Political Philosophy. We will also compare the role of equality in political philosophy with how the concept is used in other disciplines such as economics and discuss equality of resources
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Lecture	This week will discuss limits on the principle of equality. In particular, the idea that personal responsibility for inequality ought to disqualify an agent from state assistance. We will consider the 'luck egalitarian' position.
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Lecture	This week will discuss the harm principle as a way of understanding how individuals and countries cause harm. Issues discussed will include: causal chains leading to harm; causing versus enabling harm; and being complicit in harm. We will focus on considering how individuals and countries cause harm.
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Lecture	Many of the contributions to modern harms such as climate change or labour exploitation occur in an indirect way. Taking flights, buying goods, even producing fossil fuels do not directly produce emissions. How might engaging in these kind of activities be morally blameworthy? This lecture will explore this question through the concept of complicity.
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Reading	Flexibility week
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Lecture	While most discussions of justice are focussed on the distribution of benefits and burdens among existing individuals, this lecture will focus on the issues of what we owe to future generations?
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Lecture	This week will further explore issues of

		intergenerational justice in light of real world examples.
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Lecture	This week will focus on the issue of whether the scope of justice extends to non-citizens. What, if any, duties do citizens owe non-citizens and why?
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Lecture	This week will seek to understand the duties we might owe to individuals seeking to migrate from one country to another.

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

Students will have access to all required readings via Moodle.

### **Recommended Resources**

Useful additional resources will be provided during the course.

### **Course Evaluation and Development**

Student feedback will be sought throughout the course in the form of direct questions and short surveys. Feedback will be analysed on an on going basis and any relevant course alterations undertaken.

## **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.