

ARTS1360

Truth and Human Existence: Introduction to Philosophy

Term 2, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Heikki Ikäheimo	h.ikaheimo@unsw.edu.au	Email for appointment	Morven Brown Building, Room 321	(02) 90651861
Simon Lumsden	s.lumsden@unsw.edu.au	Email for appointment	Morven Brown, Room 335	(02) 9065 9747

Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Karyn Lai	k.lai@unsw.edu.au	Email for appointment	Morven Brown, Room 326	(02) 90655421

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

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

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

Tel: 02 9348 0406

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 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 task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Critical Analysis	25%	03/07/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2
2. Quiz	15%	Not Applicable	1
3. Major essay	60%	08/08/2022 11:59 PM	2, 3, 4

Assessment 1: Critical Analysis

Assessment length: 700 words

Due date: 03/07/2022 11:59 PM

Short written argument analysis (700 words).

Feedback via rubric/mark and written feedback.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

Full details of this assessment task will be available on the course Moodle page.

Assessment 2: Quiz

Assessment length: 3 x 20 minutes

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.

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Additional details

Each quiz is worth 5% and will be open for 24hrs on these days:

Quiz 1 Friday June 17 (week 3)

Quiz 2 Friday July 8 (week 6)

Quiz 3 Friday Aug 5 (week 10)

See the course Moodle page for further quiz details and advice.

Assessment 3: Major essay

Assessment length: 1500 words maximum

Due date: 08/08/2022 11:59 PM

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.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

Essay questions and advice on essay writing will be provided on the course Moodle page and in the tutorials.

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: 30 May - 3 June	Lecture	Humanity, nature and the origins of civilisation (Rousseau) Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
Week 2: 6 June - 10 June	Lecture	Existentialism: Freedom and Anguish (Sartre and de Beauvoir) Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
Week 3: 13 June - 17 June	Lecture	Vulnerability and Cultural Anxiety (Heidegger and Lear) Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
	Assessment	Online quiz 1: due Friday, June 17, 11:59pm
Week 4: 20 June - 24 June	Lecture	Scepticism and philosophy: intelligent design Lecturer: Karyn Lai
Week 5: 27 June - 1 July	Lecture	The nature of philosophy: stepping back Lecturer: Karyn Lai
	Assessment	Critical analysis: due Sunday, July 3, 11:59pm
Week 6: 4 July - 8 July	Lecture	Flexibility Week (No Lecture)
	Assessment	Online quiz 2: due Friday, July 8, 11:59pm
Week 7: 11 July - 15 July	Lecture	Lecturer: Heikki Ikäheimo The universe and our place in it: questions of metaphysics
Week 8: 18 July - 22 July	Lecture	Social ontology: what is the human world made of? Lecturer: Heikki Ikäheimo

Week 9: 25 July - 29 July	Lecture	What does it mean to be a person? Lecturer: Heikki Ikäheimo
Week 10: 1 August - 5 August	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 3: due Friday, August 5, 11:59pm

Resources

Prescribed Resources

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

Recommended Resources

Information on resources is available on the course Moodle page

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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original 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 for the purpose of them plagiarising, 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

The [UNSW Academic Skills support](#) offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. 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 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

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

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.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

Image Credit

Photo by Adi Constantin, Freely available on unsplash. comadi-constantin-xujscwNWN2M-unsplash.jpg

CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G