ARTS3377

Advanced Topics in Political Philosophy

Term 2, 2022

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jeremy Moss	j.moss@unsw.edu.au		322 Morven Brown	

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 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 and how to address them philosophically. Issues that may be addressed include: Why does inequality matter? What is the role of personal responsibility in allocating social goods? Can distributive justice be truly global? What duties do we owe future generations?.

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

Assessment 1: Mid-term essay

Due date: 24/06/2021 04:00 PM

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

Assessment 2: Final essay

Due date: 11/08/2021 04:00 PM

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: 30 May - 3 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 2: 6 June - 10 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 3: 13 June - 17 June	Lecture	This week will discuss one of the most fundamental debates in political philosophy - the basis of the obligations that citizens have to the state.
Week 4: 20 June - 24 June	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 week will explore this question through the concepts of complicity and harms.
Week 5: 27 June - 1 July	Reading	We will continue our discussion of omissions by discussing the demands of justice in cases where there exists a fiduciary duty or other duty of care.
Week 6: 4 July - 8 July	Lecture	Flex week
Week 7: 11 July - 15 July	Lecture	Markets are often said to be valuable because they efficiently distribute goods, respect individual freedoms, or because they make people better off. In this lecture we will consider the way in

		which the market is *morally* valuable.
Week 8: 18 July - 22 July	Lecture	This week will focus on when it is permissible for the state to intervene in the lives of its citizens?
Week 9: 25 July - 29 July	Lecture	This week will further explore issues of intergenerational justice in light of real world examples.

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 . 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

Synergies in Sound 2016

CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G