



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
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University



# **ARTS1361**

Philosophy, Knowledge, Reality

Semester Two // 2018

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Markos Valaris	m.valaris@unsw.edu.au	Thursday 12-1	Morven Brown Room 339	5 2760
Michaelis Michael	m.michael@unsw.edu.au	Thursday 12noon - 1pm	Morven Brown Room 325	5 2183

### 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](mailto:hal@unsw.edu.au)

### Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

## **Academic Information**

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; 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/>

## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Philosophy*

The course is a broad introduction to some of the most central concepts and issues in philosophy from both a historical and contemporary perspective. The course encourages and provides the skills that will allow you to perform in-depth analyses of individual philosophical problems, arguments and positions but also allows you to understand the broader context in which these arise. The course will provide an introductory level avenue to developing the skills and reasoning ability associated with the discipline of philosophy and is an ideal precursor to advanced courses but these skills are readily transferable to any area of study and to life more generally. Epistemology is the philosophy of knowledge. Metaphysics is the philosophy of reality. Philosophers to be read include Plato, Descartes and Russell, along with many contemporary philosophers. Topics to be discussed are as follows:

(1) Metaphysics: personal identity, free will, god and evil, foreknowledge and fatalism, universals and essences, meaning of life, time-travel, appearance and reality.

(2) Epistemology: truth, evidence, knowledge, empiricism and idealism, rationalism, scepticism, knowledge of other minds, knowledge of the external world.

By the end of the course you will have encountered many of the central concepts, problems and arguments in the above topic areas. You will have had experience in formulating, analysing, and responding critically to these central philosophical ideas. We are confident that the skills you will learn will be readily transferable to many areas of study and to your life in general. Studying philosophy is not just finding out what philosophers think, it is actually doing philosophy yourself.

### At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. Formulate, analyse, and respond critically to foundational problems, arguments, and positions in epistemology and metaphysics
2. Display skills associated with scholarly inquiry in the discipline of philosophy, particularly information literacy and critical analysis skills
3. Identify and engage with arguments through critically reading texts.
4. Develop arguments and positions.

### Teaching Strategies

We are very focused on your developing a cluster of key theoretical tools and skills that will be readily transferable but also to introduce the key philosophical ideas, problems and perspectives that have led to our present understanding of ourselves.

The lecturers exemplify this approach in lectures showing you how they engage with these topics. In tutorials the aim is to foster your ability to ask questions, to consider the views, often conflicting with your own, and to respectfully engage in criticism of your own views and the views of others.

Each element of the assessment is geared towards a particular goal:

The short assignment is focused on your ability to identify and analyse an argument in tightly focused manner.

The longer essay is aimed at your ability to develop your own arguments, critically engaging with a body of literature and showing your own ideas.

The online assessment is geared towards showing that you have paid attention to the lectures and readings as a whole and not just focussed on your essay topic.

To facilitate your development of the skills necessary to complete the short assignment and essay there will be an unassessed practice activity you will be asked to complete. You will be able to discuss your attempt with your peers and tutor and compare your answer with a model answer.

## Assessment

Each element of the assessment is geared towards a particular goal:

The short assignment is focused on your ability to identify and analyse an argument in tightly focused manner.

The longer essay is aimed at your ability to develop your own arguments, critically engaging with a body of literature and showing your own ideas.

The online assessment is geared towards showing that you have paid attention to the lectures and readings as a whole and not just focussed on your essay topic.

## Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Major Essay	40%	26/10/2018 04:00 PM	1,2,3,4
Short Assignment - Argument analysis	20%	23/08/2018 04:00 PM	3,4
Online Test	40%	Not Applicable	1,2

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: Major Essay

#### Start date:

**Details:** This essay builds on the short writing task and allows students to engage critically with a question or issue in an extended setting. They will be showing their grasp of issues and helping their readers understand the issues. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes. Length 1500 words

#### Additional details:

The essay will be no more than 1500 words long. It will be due on Friday 26th October at 4pm. It will be worth 40% of the available marks.

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

### Assessment 2: Short Assignment - Argument analysis

#### Start date:

**Length:** 700 words

**Details:** This first bit of writing is explicitly aimed at developing the sorts of analytical skills philosophy requires: identification of arguments, premises, conclusions and the structure of the arguments. Length 700 words  
Rubric comments and model argument analysis posted.

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Length 700 words

Rubric comments and model argument analysis posted.

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

**Assessment 3: Online Test**

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:** Two online multiple choice tests (each worth 20%) examine broad knowledge of lecture and reading material. Feedback: answers supplied. Length of each: 20 questions in 30 minutes.

**Additional details:**

There are two online quizzes worth 20% each. Keep an eye on Moodle for details.

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

## 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.

## Late Assessment Penalties

Students are responsible for the submission of assessment tasks by the required dates and times. Depending on the extent of delay in the submission of an assessment task past the due date and time, one of the following late penalties will apply unless special consideration or a blanket extension due to a technical outage is granted. For the purpose of late penalty calculation, a 'day' is deemed to be each 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline for submission.

- **Work submitted less than 10 days after the stipulated deadline** is subject to a deduction of 5% of the total awardable mark from the mark that would have been achieved if not for the penalty for every day past the stipulated deadline for submission. That is, a student who submits an assignment with a stipulated deadline of 4:00pm on 13 May 2016 at 4:10pm on 14 May 2016 will incur a deduction of 10%.

### ***Task with a non-percentage mark***

If the task is marked out of 25, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 1.25 from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

*Example:* A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The total possible mark for the essay is 25. The essay receives a mark of 17. The student's mark is therefore  $17 - [25 (0.05 \times 3)] = 13.25$

### ***Task with a percentage mark***

If the task is marked out of 100%, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 5% from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

*Example:* A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The essay is marked out of 100%. The essay receives a mark of 68. The student's mark is therefore  $68 - 15 = 53$



- **Work submitted 10 to 19 days after the stipulated deadline** will be assessed and feedback provided but a mark of zero will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component (hurdle requirement), a student will be deemed to have met that requirement;
- **Work submitted 20 or more days after the stipulated deadline** will not be accepted for assessment and will receive no feedback, mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will receive an Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) grade as a result of unsatisfactory performance in an essential component of the course.

This information is also available at:

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

## Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

- \* Prevent you from completing a course requirement,
- \* Keep you from attending an assessable activity,
- \* Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,
- \* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration webstie:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

## 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 information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.

**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>)

# Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

## Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 23 July - 29 July	Lecture	<p><b>1st Hour:</b> Introductory: What is philosophy?</p> <p>Lecturer: Michaelis Michael and Markos Valaris</p> <p><b>2nd Hour:</b> Knowledge and Scepticism</p> <p>Lecturer: MV</p>
	Reading	Descartes: <i>Meditations on First Philosophy: First Meditation</i> ( <a href="#">available online</a> )
Week 2: 30 July - 5 August	Lecture	<p><b>1st Hour:</b> What Am I?</p> <p><b>2nd Hour:</b> Vivid and Clear Perceptions</p> <p>Lecturer: MV</p>
	Reading	<p>Descartes: <i>Second Meditation</i></p> <p>Descartes: <i>Third Meditation</i></p>
Week 3: 6 August - 12 August	Lecture	<p><b>1st Hour:</b> Error and Evil</p> <p><b>2nd Hour:</b> Innate Ideas and the Ontological Argument for the Existence of God</p> <p>Lecturer: MV</p>
	Reading	<p>Descartes: <i>Fourth and Fifth Meditations</i></p> <p>J. L. Mackie. "Evil and Omnipotence" (<a href="#">available online</a>)</p> <p>Kenneth Himma. "Anselm: the Ontological Argument", Sections 1 &amp; 2 (rest optional). From the <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>. (online: link on Moodle)</p> <p>Optional: James Beebee. "The Logical Problem of Evil". rom the <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>. (online: link on Moodle)</p>
	Project	PRACTICE Short Assessment
Week 4: 13 August - 19 August	Lecture	<p><b>1st Hour:</b> Knowledge and Understanding</p> <p><b>2nd Hour:</b> Consciousness and the Soul</p>

		Lecturer: MV
	Reading	Descartes: <i>Sixth Meditation</i>  Linda Zagzebski. "Recovering Understanding". ( <a href="#">available online</a> )  Princess Elisabeth's First Letter to Descartes (6.v.1643) ( <a href="#">available online</a> )  David Chalmers. "The Problem of Conscious Experience" M41
Week 5: 20 August - 26 August	Lecture	Personal Identity  Lecturer: MV
	Reading	John Perry. <i>A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality</i>  Sydney Shoemaker. "Personal Identity: A Materialist Account" M36
	Assessment	Short Assignment Due
Week 6: 27 August - 2 September		<b>1st Hour:</b> Personal Identity  <b>2nd Hour:</b> wrapping up  Lecturer: MV
	Reading	Daniel Dennett. "The Origins of Selves". ( <a href="#">Available online.</a> )  Jenann Ismael. "Saving the Baby: Dennett on Autobiography, Agency and the Self". ( <a href="#">Available online</a> )  Optional: the Buddha: "Cula-Saccaka Sutta (the Shorter Discourse to Saccaka)", Majjhima Nikaya 35. ( <a href="#">Available online.</a> )
Week 7: 3 September - 9 September	Lecture	Metaphysics of Existence and Possibility: Counterfactuals      Lecturer:MM
	Reading	Quine "On What There Is" M 2; Lewis, "Modal Realism at Work" M 52; Galileo "Two Kinds of Properties" ( <a href="#">Available Online</a> ) (read from page 19 to end of passage)
Week 8: 10 September - 16 September	Lecture	Causation, Determinism and Free Will Lecturer: MM
	Reading	Hume, "Constant Conjunction" M 30  Anscombe "Causation and Determination" M 34  Lewis "Causation"

		<a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/2025310">http://www.jstor.org/stable/2025310</a>
Week 9: 17 September - 23 September	Lecture	Free Will, Time Travel      Lecturer: MM
	Reading	Holbach, "We Are Never Free" M 43  Hobart, "Free Will as Involving Determination" M44  Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person" M51  Lewis, "The Paradoxes of Time Travel" M 23  Optional: Valaris & Michael "Time Travel for Endurantists" <a href="#">available here</a> (need to be at UNSW or logged into UNSW Library if you are off campus for link to work)
Break: 24 September - 30 September		
Week 10: 1 October - 7 October	Lecture	Truth, Lies and Bullshit      Lecturer: MM
	Reading	Entry in Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/truth/">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/truth/</a>  Optional: Frankfurt, On Bullshit Princeton University Press, 2005 (not required reading, but you might enjoy it.) See the interview at <a href="http://press.princeton.edu/video/frankfurt/">http://press.princeton.edu/video/frankfurt/</a>  And also this where Frankfurt discusses his views on Bullshit and public life  <a href="http://www.markmolaro.com/2007/05/16/harry-frankfurt-on-bullshit-on-truth/">http://www.markmolaro.com/2007/05/16/harry-frankfurt-on-bullshit-on-truth/</a>
Week 11: 8 October - 14 October	Lecture	Social Constructivism and Relativism Lecturer: MM
	Reading	Optional: Baghramian, Maria and Carter, J. Adam, "Relativism", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <a href="#">link</a> (link works anywhere)
Week 12: 15 October - 21 October	Lecture	Meaning of Life and Summing Up Lecturer: MM
	Reading	Michael and Caldwell "Consolations of Optimism" ( <a href="#">Available Online</a> )

	Ramsey "Epilogue"
Week 13: 22 October - 28 October	

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

- Book – Metaphysics: the big questions, edited by Peter Van Inwagen and Dean Zimmermann (2008)
- Book – A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality, by John Perry

### **Recommended Resources**

- Website – The Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- Website – The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Additional resources will be available on Moodle. Keep up to date with Subject Moodle page.

### **Course Evaluation and Development**

This course will be evaluated using UNSW's myExperience system. Informal feedback, in the form of suggestions or comments is very welcome from all of you at any time during or after the course.

### **Image Credit**

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### **CRICOS**

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