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ARTS3360

Philosophy Capstone: Examining Pivotal Texts

Semester Two // 2018

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Melissa Merritt	m.merritt@unsw.edu.au	Tuesdays 12:30-1:30	MB341	93852764

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

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

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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*

In the capstone, you will consolidate your grasp of the discipline of philosophy by examining a pivotal text in the history of philosophy that (a) weighs in on the relation between the two main streams of the discipline (mind/metaphysics/epistemology and value theory); and (b) has been broadly influential upon contemporary philosophical debates and practices. The selected text may vary from semester to semester, but some representative examples would include: Spinoza's *Ethics*, Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature*, Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. The selected text will be examined with respect to: its historical context; its integrity as a unified and systematic work; the independent power of its arguments; the implications of these arguments for other areas of humanistic inquiry; and the enduring influence of the text over contemporary debates and philosophical practice. The practical apprenticeship of the subject will be developed by introducing students to the variety of research practices of the discipline and encouraging students to reflect upon those practices in the development of a sustained and integrated research project. You will refine your skills for focused analytic writing that will serve you in a range of future career paths, both academic and non-academic.

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

1. Explain the central doctrines of the source text for the course
2. Identify philosophical arguments (isolating premises, inferences, and conclusion) in the source text, and evaluate their soundness
3. Interpret the core claims of the source text, and assess their bearing on other areas of philosophy and humanistic inquiry
4. Debate the interpretation of the source text, and appraise competing interpretations
5. Conduct independent research in philosophy

Teaching Strategies

This course is designed to consolidate your grasp of the unity and breadth of philosophical inquiry through examining a text that has had a profound impact on contemporary philosophical practice. It is also designed to help you develop skills for independent philosophical inquiry and research. It will help you further develop your skills for clear, analytical writing, which will be of use in your future career (whether academic or non-academic). This course is taught as a seminar in a three-hour block. While some time will be devoted to lecture-style delivery, sessions will also regularly involve close hands-on work with the texts, group discussion, and both informal and organised debates.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research essay	40%	30/10/2018 04:00 PM	3,4,5
Critical Reading Exercise	30%	22/08/2018 04:00 PM	1,2,3
Class presentation: research project	10%	16/10/2018 09:00 AM	5
Online Discussion Forum	20%	Mondays, 9am, of Weeks 2-11	1,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2500-3000 words

Details: 2500-3000 words. A focused research essay on a topic of the student's choosing, vetted by instructor, addressing an interpretive puzzle in the source text and demonstrating knowledge of its relevance to contemporary debates. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes. Written feedback and a mark.

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

Assessment 2: Critical Reading Exercise

Start date: 07/08/2018 09:00 AM

Details: 1000 word essay, critically analysing an argument in the source text prior to our having discussed it as a class, drawing on what you have learned so far about the text. Feedback via rubric, individual comments, and a mark.

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

Assessment 3: Class presentation: research project

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 5-minute presentation

Details: In Week 12, you will give a 5-minute presentation on your self-directed research topic for your research paper. The presentation will cover your research questions and how/why you got interested in

them, the thesis for which you intend to argue, the methods you are using in this research, and unresolved questions and problems for feedback from the class.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 4: Online Discussion Forum

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: approx. 200 words per post (2000 words over the term)

Details: You are expected to participate in weekly online discussions, for 10 weeks of the term. The length of your contribution over the course of the entire term should be about 2,000 words. Feedback via general discussion. Individual feedback available upon request.

Additional details:

Weekly posts are due Mondays at 9am for Weeks 2-11.

Assignment information sheet will be distributed and posted in Week 1. Each week will start a new discussion.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

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. 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

An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).

The late penalty is the loss of 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late. Lateness will include weekends and public holidays. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted fourteen (14) days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component, a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted twenty-one (21) days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

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 website:

<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	Reading	<i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Preface to the Second Edition (Bvii-xliv = NKS 17-37).
Week 2: 30 July - 5 August	Reading	<i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Introduction (NKS 41-62 = B1-30). [You will notice some divergences between the A (1781) and the B (1787) versions of the Introduction. You are only required to read the B version.] AND Lewis White Beck, "Can Kant's Synthetic Judgments be Made Analytic?" [Leganto]
	Online Activity	Online discussion post due by Monday, 30 July, 9am -- this is assessed.
Week 3: 6 August - 12 August	Reading	<i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Transcendental Aesthetic (NKS 65-91 = A19-49/B33-73) -- <i>you'll notice that the final stretch is only in B.</i> AND James van Cleve, "The Ideality of Time" [Leganto]
	Online Activity	Online discussion post due by Monday, 6 August, 9am -- this is assessed.
Week 4: 13 August - 19 August	Reading	<i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Transcendental Logic introductory bits and "metaphysical deduction" -- NKS 92-119 = A50-83/B74-116). <i>If you really want to, you can skip §12 (pp. 118-19).</i> AND John McDowell, <i>Mind and World</i> , Lecture 1: Concepts and Intuitions [Leganto] (Recommended only: Nunez, "Logical Mistakes, Logical Aliens, and the Laws of Kant's Pure General Logic Logical Mistakes, Logical Aliens, and the Laws of Kant's Pure General Logic" --

		[Leganto])
	Online Activity	Online discussion post due by Monday, 13 August, 9am -- this is assessed.
Week 5: 20 August - 26 August	Reading	<i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Transcendental Deduction §§13-19 (NKS 120-128 and 151-159 = A84-94/B116-142). <i>-- note that you are skipping over the A-edition version of the Transcendental Deduction. So the first bit of this reading (§§13-14) is common to both versions, then you skip over the A version to continue reading at §15, the beginning of the Deduction proper in B.</i>
	Online Activity	Online discussion post due by Monday, 20 August, 9am -- this is assessed.
	Assessment	Critical Reading Exercise due Wednesday 22 August 4pm
Week 6: 27 August - 2 September	Reading	<i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Transcendental Deduction §§20-27 (NKS 160-175 = B143-169) AND Lucy Allais, "Synthesis and Binding" [Leganto]
	Online Activity	Online discussion post due by Monday, 27 August, 9am -- this is assessed.
Week 7: 3 September - 9 September	Reading	<i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Analytic of Principles introductory bits -- including Schematism -- and Analogies of Experience (NKS 176-197 and 208-238 = A130-162/B169-202 and A176-216/B218-265) <i>NB: there is a divergence between A and B editions in the Analogies in spots -- again, you need only read the B version.</i> AND Melissa Merritt and Markos Valaris, "Attention and Synthesis in Kant's Conception of Experience." [Leganto] (Recommended only: Samantha Matherne, "Kantian Themes in Merleau-Ponty's Theory of Perception." [Leganto])
	Online Activity	Online discussion post due by Monday, 3 September, 9am -- this is assessed.

Week 8: 10 September - 16 September	Reading	<p><i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>, "Refutation of Idealism" and "Phenomena and Noumena" (NKS 244-247 and 257-275 = B274-279 and A235-260/B294-315)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Lucy Allais, "Why Kant is Not a Phenomenalist" [Leganto]</p> <p>Rae Langton, "An Old Problem" [Leganto]</p>
	Online Activity	Online discussion post due by Monday, 10 September, 9am -- this is assessed.
Week 9: 17 September - 23 September	Reading	<p><i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>, Transcendental Dialectic, Intro bits and B Paralogisms (NKS 297-326 and 368-383 = A293-338/B349-396 and B406-432)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Andrew Chignell, "Can't Kant Cognize Himself?" [Leganto]</p>
	Online Activity	Online discussion post due by Monday, 17 September, 9am -- this is assessed.
Break: 24 September - 30 September		
Week 10: 1 October - 7 October	Reading	<p><i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>, Antinomies of Pure Reason intro bits and statement of First Antinomy (NKS 384-402 = A405-433/B432-461)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Antinomies Sections 3-7 (NKS 422-449 = A462-507/B490-535).</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Rae Langton, "Three Kantian Theses" [Leganto]</p>
	Online Activity	Online discussion post due by Monday, 1 October, 9am -- this is assessed.
Week 11: 8 October - 14 October	Reading	<p><i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>, Third Antinomy statement and resolution (NKS 409-415 and 464-484 = A445-451/B473-479 and A532-567/B560-595)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Henry Allison, "Empirical and Intelligible Character"</p>
	Online Activity	Online discussion post due by Monday, 8 October, 9am -- this is assessed. (Last one!)
Week 12: 15 October - 21 October	Presentation	Student research presentations in class. This is assessed.

Week 13: 22 October -
28 October

Assessment

Final papers due Tuesday 30 October, 4pm.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*. Translated by Norman Kemp Smith. Macmillan. [available at UNSW bookstore]

Other required readings available through Leganto as indicated in course schedule -- look on Moodle for the link to Leganto.

I've ordered the Norman Kemp Smith translation because it is both affordable and a good translation. It is just as good (IMHO) as the more expensive translation by Paul Guyer and Allen Wood available in the Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant; of course, if you want to use the Guyer/Wood translation, that is fine (it has probably edged out NKS in recent years to count as the 'standard' translation, but again I am not confident that it is actually better). Another translation that will be allowed is that of Werner Pluhar, in an edition published by Hackett -- I am not familiar with this translation, but I understand that it is reasonably good.

Recommended Resources

Some readings on the schedule are noted as recommended -- these (along with the required other readings) are all available via Leganto.

Course Evaluation and Development

Please come talk to me about any issues having to do with course administration, and be sure to fill out your My Experience survey at the end -- all feedback is instrumental to developing and improving the course.

Image Credit

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