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ARTS3373

Topics in Analytic Philosophy

Semester Two // 2018

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Stephen Hetherington	s.hetherington@unsw.edu.au	Office hours: Thursdays 11-12 or by appointment	MB337	93852318

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

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*

At a time when distinguishing between knowledge and, for instance, media/political/social/corporate 'spin' is particularly important, it is important to be clear on what is involved in one's knowing something, in being accurate in what one says or thinks, indeed in one's saying or thinking something at all. Is there such a thing as knowledge? What would it be? Is objectivity impossible? Is reality an illusion? Could people's views be objectively true? Does that make sense? What is it to even have a view? What is (literally) meaningful speech or thought? These are the sorts of questions explored in this course. The course does will help you to understand some important philosophical ideas and ways of thinking about knowledge, and/or mind, and/or reality, and/or language. The course can take different forms in different years. In a given year, its focus will be on key questions from epistemology (the philosophical study of knowledge and conceptually related phenomena), and/or metaphysics (the philosophical study of reality), and/or philosophy of language (since language is, after all, the medium of most forms of meaning).

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

1. Identify and critically assess arguments concerning knowledge, and/or mind, and/or meaning, and/or reality.
2. Employ and explain some key conceptual tools for analysing arguments on advanced philosophical issues.
3. Evaluate key writings on knowledge, and/or reality, and/or mind, and/or meaning, which provide a foundation for much contemporary thought and culture.
4. Analyse and explain key concepts and ideas on some central philosophical views, demonstrating a basis for on-going engagement with philosophy.
5. Contextualise study in other disciplines in the broader context of human thought.

Teaching Strategies

The course is taught via three hours per week of seminar-style lectures. This involves interaction between the lecturer and the students.

Assessment

[Here you can outline any relevant information that was not included in AIMS but may prove helpful for your students. For example, you might provide details on the referencing system, links to previous student exemplars or the designated week in the course that you will discuss the assessment at length. Importantly, this section is an area for you to provide information that does not go through the approved governance structure.]

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Early exam	5%	16/08/2018 12:10 PM	2,4
Major essay	45%	28/08/2018 11:59 PM	1,2,3,4
Final exam	50%	UNSW exam period	1,2,3,4,5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Early exam

Start date:

Length: 20 minutes

Details: In-class exam. Held before census date. 20 minutes long. Provides early formal feedback for students, to be discussed in subsequent pre-census class (and in consultation hours, if students wish), once marked.

Submission notes: in-class short test

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Major essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 3000 words

Details: Research essay. 3000 words. Essay questions available by week 2; discussed at outset with students, enabling them to start thinking about the essay concurrently with the associated lectures; students encouraged to consult during office hours about essay; essay due a few weeks later. Subsequent feedback via individual comments. Further personal consultation about essay available afterwards.

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

Assessment 3: Final exam

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: Two hour exam

Details: Final exam (held in UNSW Exam period). Two hours. Feedback via individual comments, if sought by student. (This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.)

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

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-integer 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	Seminar	Meeting: 26 July Topic: [introduction to course +] knowing one's body Reading: Self-Knowledge (textbook), ch. 1
Week 2: 30 July - 5 August	Seminar	Meeting: 2 August Topic: Knowing one's mind Reading: Self-Knowledge (textbook), ch. 2; Descartes, 'Meditation II'; Hume, <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> , book I, part IV, section VI
Week 3: 6 August - 12 August	Seminar	Meeting: 9 August Topic: What is knowledge (including self-knowledge)? Reading: Self-Knowledge (textbook), ch. 3; Plato, <i>Meno</i> 97a–99d; Ayer, <i>The Problem of Knowledge</i> , pp. 28–32
Week 4: 13 August - 19 August	Seminar	Meeting: 16 August Topic: How to gain self-knowledge? And what is its value? Reading: Self-Knowledge (textbook), ch. 4; Cassam, <i>Self-Knowledge for Humans</i> , ch. 15 Note: this week also includes a short in-class assessment (as described elsewhere in this course overview)
Week 5: 20 August - 26 August	Seminar	Meeting: 23 August Topic: Scepticism: Is self-knowledge possible? Reading: Self-Knowledge (textbook), ch. 5; Descartes, 'Meditation I'
Week 6: 27 August - 2 September	Seminar	Meeting: 30 August Topic: Reliability and evidence Reading: Kornblith, 'Knowledge in humans and

		other animals'; Feldman & Conee, 'Evidentialism'
Week 7: 3 September - 9 September	Seminar	Meeting: 6 September Topic: Defining knowledge (the Gettier problem) Reading: Gettier, 'Is justified true belief knowledge?'; Zagzebski, 'The inescapability of the Gettier problem'; Lehrer, 'Knowledge, truth, and evidence'; Goldman, 'Discrimination and perceptual knowledge', pp. 771-5
Week 8: 10 September - 16 September	Seminar	Meeting: 13 September Topic: Knowledge as tracking the truth Reading: Nozick, <i>Philosophical Explanations</i> , pp. 172-80, 197-211
Week 9: 17 September - 23 September	Seminar	Meeting: 20 September Topic: Scepticism: Can there be rational belief about the unobserved? Reading: Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> , sections IV, V
Break: 24 September - 30 September		
Week 10: 1 October - 7 October	Seminar	Meeting: 4 October Topic: Scepticism: Can there be knowledge of one's own mind? Reading: Hetherington, <i>Knowledge Puzzles</i> , ch. 21; Kripke, <i>Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language</i> , pp.7-21
Week 11: 8 October - 14 October	Seminar	Meeting: 11 October Topic: Ancient scepticism and disagreement Reading: Sextus Empiricus, <i>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</i> , excerpts ; Feldman, 'Epistemological puzzles about disagreement'
Week 12: 15 October - 21 October	Seminar	Meeting: 18 October Topic: Fallibilism [+ advice/revision for the exam, to be held in the UNSW exam period] Reading: Hetherington, 'Fallibilism'

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Textbook: Self-Knowledge, by Stephen Hetherington (Broadview, 2007) -- available from UNSW bookshop.

Further readings will be available through moodle.

Recommended Resources

Not available

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will be gathered in the usual official UNSW way (along with any informal comments that come my way from students). This will be carefully considered. Any useful comments or notable patterns will be taken into account in preparing and teaching my future courses.

Image Credit

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