



UNSW

UNSW Course Outline

ARTS1361 Mind, Ethics, and Freedom: Introduction to Philosophy - 2024

Published on the 05 Feb 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS1361

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of Humanities and Languages

Delivery Mode : Multimodal

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Philosophy examines the fundamental presuppositions of every area of human life and

inquiry. This course introduces you to philosophy by taking up questions about the nature of knowledge, the human mind and its relation to the body, the principles of right action and of a good life, and freedom and constraint in a just political order. We will examine both contemporary and historically influential approaches. 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 ARTS1360: Truth and Human Existence.

Course Learning Outcomes

| Course Learning Outcomes |
|---|
| CLO1 : Correctly apply central concepts in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy. |
| CLO2 : Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy. |
| CLO3 : Assess and interrogate canonical texts in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy. |

| Course Learning Outcomes | Assessment Item |
|---|---|
| CLO1 : Correctly apply central concepts in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online Test• Critical analysis• Major Essay |
| CLO2 : Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online Test• Major Essay |
| CLO3 : Assess and interrogate canonical texts in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical analysis• Major Essay |

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360 | Zoom

Assessments

Assessment Structure

| Assessment Item | Weight | Relevant Dates |
|--|--------|--|
| Online Test Assessment Format: Individual | 20% | Due Date: Quiz 1 due 3 March; Quiz 2 due 31 March; Quiz 3 due 21 April |
| Critical analysis Assessment Format: Individual | 30% | Due Date: 25/03/2024 11:59 PM |
| Major Essay Assessment Format: Individual | 50% | Due Date: 30/04/2024 11:59 PM |

Assessment Details

Online Test

Assessment Overview

Three-part multiple-choice online test (20 minutes each part) assessing comprehension of central concepts and arguments covered in the course. Each part of the test covers a 3-week span of the course.

Feedback via Moodle (right answers and numerical score).

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Correctly apply central concepts in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.
- CLO2 : Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page

Submission notes

Refer to Moodle for submission information

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Critical analysis

Assessment Overview

A short critical analysis of a selected passage. You will be asked to reconstruct and critically

assess the reasoning expressed in the passage (700 words). Marking via rubric with individual written/recoded comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Correctly apply central concepts in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.
- CLO3 : Assess and interrogate canonical texts in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page

Assessment Length

About 700 words.

Submission notes

Refer to Moodle for submission information

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Major Essay

Assessment Overview

Students select a topic from a list provided by the instructors. Essay to be no more than 1500 words.

Numerical mark, rubric, and written or voice comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Correctly apply central concepts in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.
- CLO2 : Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.
- CLO3 : Assess and interrogate canonical texts in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page

Assessment Length

Up to 1500 words

Submission notes

Refer to Moodle for submission information

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

50% of the total score. Meeting the attendance requirement.

Course Schedule

| Teaching Week/Module | Activity Type | Content |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February | Lecture | Weekly Topics • Introduction to the course • Knowledge and Illusion: Descartes' Meditations on First Philosophy, I-II |
| | Tutorial | |
| Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February | Lecture | Weekly Topics • Clear and distinct perceptions (Descartes' Meditations, Meditation 3) • The existence of God (Descartes' Meditations, Meditation 3) • Error and free will (Descartes' Meditations, Meditation 4) |
| | Tutorial | |
| Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March | Lecture | Weekly Topics • Mathematical knowledge and the nature of material bodies (Descartes' Meditations, Meditation 5) • Response to scepticism (Descartes' Meditations, Meditation 6) • Mind and body (Descartes' Meditations, Meditation 6) • Knowledge and understanding |
| | Tutorial | |
| Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March | Lecture | Weekly Topics • Kant on the rational basis of morality • The categorical imperative |
| | Tutorial | |
| Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March | Lecture | Weekly Topics • The value of humanity |
| | Tutorial | |
| Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March | Lecture | Weekly Topics • Utilitarianism |
| | Tutorial | |
| Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April | Lecture | EASTER MONDAY: NO IN-PERSON LECTURE THIS WEEK Pre-recorded lecture will be available Weekly Topics • Properties: standing and dispositional |
| | Tutorial | |
| Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April | Lecture | Weekly Topics • Determinism and Freedom |
| | Tutorial | |
| Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April | Lecture | Weekly Topics • Time travel and freedom |
| | Tutorial | |

Attendance Requirements

Attendance of weekly tutorials is mandatory. During tutorials you will engage in essential learning activities, including group discussion on assigned problems and examination of philosophical texts (associated learning outcomes: 1, 2 and 3). Attendance will be taken weekly by your tutor. Missing more than three tutorials during the term will result in failure in the course.

Prior to attending your weekly tutorial, you are expected to have attended the lecture (or watched the lecture recording) and to have completed the assigned reading.

- Align with the course learning outcomes;
- Result in a recorded artefact (an artefact for participation may include a post, or response, to

an online discussion forum, poll or quiz, when an artefact for mandatory attendance may include a record of attendance) and have processes in place for recording the student artefact;

- Where relevant, include evidence that the attendance or participation is required to meet a statutory or professional body requirement; and
- Be comparable where the activity is delivered in different modes.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

- René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (trans. John Cottingham), Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy

Recommended Resources

The following websites provide authoritative and thorough discussion of topics discussed in this course:

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

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback for this course will be gathered informally throughout its duration, and formally at the end via myExperience. We are always keen to hear from you what works and what does not. Do not hesitate to contact the convenors, lecturers, or tutors with any comments or queries.

Staff Details

| Position | Name | Email | Location | Phone | Availability | Equitable Learning Services Contact | Primary Contact |
|----------|-------------------|-------|----------|-------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Convenor | Markos Valaris | | MB 339 | | By email or by appointment. | Yes | Yes |
| Lecturer | Melissa Merritt | | MB 341 | | By email or by appointment. | No | No |
| | Michaelis Michael | | | | By email or by appointment. | No | No |

Other Useful Information

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).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

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.

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

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

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, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

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

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