UNSW Course Outline

ZGEN2240 Introduction to Military Ethics - 2024

Published on the 12 Feb 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ZGEN2240
Year : 2024
Term : Semester 1
Teaching Period : Z1
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : UNSW Canberra
Academic Unit : UC School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : UNSW Canberra at ADFA
Campus : UNSW Canberra
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

A changing military environment and developments in wider society combine to make new and increasingly complex ethical demands on Australian Defence Force officers. This course introduces students to ethical theory and debate, develops skills in applying ethics, and analyses

various forms of ethical discourse. In order to maintain a practical approach, case studies will be used to introduce the problems to be examined in the course. Studying ethics may not make you a better person, but it will encourage self-awareness, clarity, and ability to engage in ethical dialogue with others inside and outside the military.

Course Aims

This course will introduce students to the fundamental ideas of ethical theory and to the sorts of practical problems which they will face as future military leaders.

The course has three main aims.

1. to acquaint all students with the sorts of ethical decisions they are likely to face during their careers as military officers,

2. to equip them with the skills and understanding which is required in order for them to be able to make good decisions when faced with such ethical dilemmas, and

3. to equip all students who take the course, regardless of whether or not they intend to major in ethics and philosophy, with the basic skills of reasoning, logic and argument which will assist them in any further studies they undertake in any area.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course is a General Education subject

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : At the end of the course, all students should be able to identify issues that have an ethical dimension and recognise the principal ethical approaches to these issues.
CLO2 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to recognise the ethically significant aspects of the decision
CLO3 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to understand how the demands of ethical conduct and military professionalism apply to the decision.
CLO4 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to defend the appropriateness of the decision they have made to themselves and to others.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : At the end of the course, all students should be able to identify issues that have an ethical dimension and recognise the principal ethical approaches to these issues.	• Tutorial work • Short Test • Long Test • Final Exam
CLO2 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to recognise the ethically significant aspects of the decision	• Tutorial work • Short Test • Long Test • Final Exam
CLO3 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to understand how the demands of ethical conduct and military professionalism apply to the decision.	• Tutorial work • Short Test • Long Test • Final Exam
CLO4 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to defend the appropriateness of the decision they have made to themselves and to others.	• Tutorial work • Short Test • Long Test • Final Exam

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

Moodle is the Learning Management System used at UNSW Canberra.

All courses have a Moodle site which will become available to students at least one week before the start of semester. Please find all help and documentation (including Blackboard Collaborate) at the Moodle Support page.

UNSW Moodle supports the following web browsers:

- Google Chrome 50+
- Safari 10+
- Internet Explorer is not recommended
- Addons and Toolbars can affect any browser's performance.

Operating systems recommended are:

Windows 7, 10, Mac OSX Sierra, iPad IOS10

For further details about system requirements click here.

Log in to Moodle here.

Additional Course Information

n/a

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Tutorial work Assessment Format: Individual	5%	
Short Test Assessment Format: Individual	20%	
Long Test Assessment Format: Individual	30%	
Final Exam Assessment Format: Individual	45%	

Assessment Details
Tutorial work

Assessment Overview

Students are expected to prepare, attend, and participate in tutorials.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : At the end of the course, all students should be able to identify issues that have an ethical dimension and recognise the principal ethical approaches to these issues.
- CLO2 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able

to recognise the ethically significant aspects of the decision

- CLO3 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to understand how the demands of ethical conduct and military professionalism apply to the decision.
- CLO4 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to defend the appropriateness of the decision they have made to themselves and to others.

Short Test

Assessment Overview

short in-class test of 60 minutes duration

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : At the end of the course, all students should be able to identify issues that have an ethical dimension and recognise the principal ethical approaches to these issues.
- CLO2 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to recognise the ethically significant aspects of the decision
- CLO3 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to understand how the demands of ethical conduct and military professionalism apply to the decision.
- CLO4 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to defend the appropriateness of the decision they have made to themselves and to others.

Detailed Assessment Description

In-class test to give students early feedback

Long Test

Assessment Overview

students will be required to take an in-class test of 90 minutes duration.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : At the end of the course, all students should be able to identify issues that have an ethical dimension and recognise the principal ethical approaches to these issues.
- CLO2 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to recognise the ethically significant aspects of the decision
- CLO3 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to understand how the demands of ethical conduct and military professionalism apply to the decision.
- CLO4 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to defend the appropriateness of the decision they have made to themselves and to others.

Final Exam

Assessment Overview

Final Exam covering the full scope of course materials.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : At the end of the course, all students should be able to identify issues that have an ethical dimension and recognise the principal ethical approaches to these issues.
- CLO2 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to recognise the ethically significant aspects of the decision
- CLO3 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to understand how the demands of ethical conduct and military professionalism apply to the decision.
- CLO4 : When faced with an ethical decision in the future, students should thus be able to defend the appropriateness of the decision they have made to themselves and to others.

General Assessment Information

Late Submission of Assessment

Unless prior arrangement is made with the lecturer or a formal application for special consideration is submitted, a penalty of 5% of the total available mark for the assessment will apply for each day that an assessment item is late up to a maximum of 5 days (120 hours) after which an assessment can no longer be submitted and a grade of 0 will be applied.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Electronic submission of assessment

Except where the nature of an assessment task precludes its electronic submission, all assessments must be submitted to an electronic repository, approved by UNSW or the Faculty, for archiving and subsequent marking and analysis.

Release of final mark

All marks obtained for assessment items during the session are provisional. The final mark as published by the university following the assessment review group meeting is the only official mark.

Guidance on AI

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If such use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

<u>Grading Basis</u>

Standard

<u>Requirements to pass course</u>

Students must achieve an overall average of 50% in order to pass this course.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 26 February - 1 March	Lecture	Course Overview
Week 2 : 4 March - 8 March	Lecture	What is Ethics?
	Tutorial	
Week 3 : 11 March - 15 March	Assessment	In class test, during tutorial periods
Week 4 : 18 March - 22 March	Lecture	Ethics and the Australian Profession of Arms
	Tutorial	
Week 5 : 25 March - 29 March	Lecture	When War? (Jus ad Bellum in the Just War Tradition)
	Tutorial	
Week 6 : 1 April - 5 April	Tutorial	
Week 7 : 22 April - 26 April	Lecture	How War? (Jus in Bello in the Just War Tradition)
Week 8 : 29 April - 3 May	Lecture	Less Than War and After War (Jus ad Vim, Jus ex Bello, Jus post Bellum in the Just War Tradition)
	Tutorial	
Week 9 : 6 May - 10 May	Assessment	In class test during double lecture period
	Tutorial	
Week 10 : 13 May - 17 May	Lecture	Ethics on the Edge: New Military Technologies
	Tutorial	
Week 11 : 20 May - 24 May	Lecture	Moral and Spiritual Injury
	Tutorial	
Week 12 : 27 May - 31 May	Lecture	Ethical Decisionmaking and Risk Factors
Week 13 : 3 June - 7 June	Lecture	Course Wrap Up

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

Lectures take place on Mondays (double period starting at noon), and tutorials take place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Amended scheduling applied in weeks affected by public holidays.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Deane-Peter Baker (ed) *Key Concepts in Military Ethics* (NewSouth Press 2015 9781742234380)

Recommended Resources

Stephen Coleman, *Military Ethics: An Introduction with Case Studies* (Oxford University Press 2012 0199846294)

Additional Costs

n/a

Course Evaluation and Development

One of the key priorities in the 2025 Strategy for UNSW is a drive for academic excellence in education. One of the ways of determining how well UNSW is progressing towards this goal is by listening to our own students. Students will be asked to complete the myExperience survey towards the end of this course.

Students can also provide feedback during the semester via: direct contact with the lecturer, the "On-going Student Feedback" link in Moodle, Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings in schools, informal feedback conducted by staff, and focus groups. Student opinions really do make a difference. Refer to the Moodle site for this course to see how the feedback from previous students has contributed to the course development.

Important note: Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct Policy

https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Deane Baker		36-101			No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Course Evaluation and Development

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Important note: Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct.

https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf

Equitable Learning Services (ELS)

Students living with neurodivergent, physical and/or mental health conditions or caring for someone with these conditions may be eligible for support through the Equitible Learning Services team. Equitable Learning Services is a free and confidential service that provides practical support to ensure your mental or physical health conditions do not adversely affect your studies.

Our team of dedicated **Equitable Learning Facilitators** (ELFs) are here to assist you through this process. We offer a number of services to make your education at UNSW easier and more equitable.

Further information about ELS for currently enrolled students can be found at: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/equitable-learning

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to this principle of academic integrity. All students are expected to adhere to UNSW's Student Code of Conduct. Find relevant information at: Student Code of Conduct (unsw.edu.au)

Plagiarism undermines academic integrity and is not tolerated at UNSW. It is defined as using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own, and can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidental copying from a source without acknowledgement.

For more information, please refer to the following:

https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Special Consideration

Special Consideration is the process for assessing and addressing the impact on students of short-term events, that are beyond the control of the student, and that affect performance in a specific assessment task or tasks.

Applications for Special Consideration will be accepted in the following circumstances only:

- Where academic work has been hampered to a substantial degree by illness or other cause;
- The circumstances are unexpected and beyond the student's control;
- The circumstances could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student; and either:

(i) they occurred during a critical study period and was 3 consecutive days or more duration, or a total of 5 days within the critical study period; or

(ii) they prevented the ability to complete, attend or submit an assessment task for a specific date (e.g. final exam, in class test/quiz, in class presentation)

Applications for Special Consideration must be made as soon as practicable after the problem occurs and at the latest within three working days of the assessment or the period covered by the supporting documentation.

By sitting or submitting the assessment task the student is declaring that they are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration (UNSW 'fit to sit or submit' requirement).

Sitting, accessing or submitting an assessment task on the scheduled assessment date, after applying for special consideration, renders the special consideration application void.

Find more information about special consideration at: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special/consideration/guide

Or apply for special consideration through your MyUNSW portal.

Late Submission of assessment tasks (other than examinations)

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- capped at five 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 extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Electronic submission of assessment

Except where the nature of an assessment task precludes its electronic submission, all assessments must be submitted to an electronic repository, approved by UNSW or the Faculty, for archiving and subsequent marking and analysis.

Release of final mark

All marks obtained for assessment items during the session are provisional. The final mark as published by the university following the assessment review group meeting is the only official mark.