UNSW Course Outline

ARTS3360 Examining Pivotal Texts - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS3360
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 : In Person
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

In this course 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 year to year, but some representative examples include: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature*, Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* and Hegel's *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*. 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. 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.

Course Aims

Relationship to Other Courses

ARTS3360 "Examining Pivotal Texts" is a course in the history of philosophy and, alongside ARTS2105 "Happiness and Philosophy", ARTS2110 "Love, Friendship, and Philosophy", ARTS2362 "Alienation and Social Critique", ARTS2363 "Chinese Philosophy", ARTS2367 "Thinking Through Art", ARTS2384 "Political Philosophy", ARTS2389 "Philosophy as a Way of Life", ARTS3368 "Modern European Philosophy" and ARTS3380 "Advanced Topics in Social Philosophy", contributes to UNSW's exploration of philosophical traditions and texts.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Explain the central doctrines of the source text for the course.
CLO2 : Interpret the core claims of the source text, and assess their bearing on other areas of philosophy and humanistic inquiry.
CLO3 : Reconstruct and appraise competing interpretations of the primary texts.
CLO4 : Conduct independent research in philosophy.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Explain the central doctrines of the source text for the course.	• Study Partner Discussion Forum Posts • Mid-Term Essay • Final Essay
CLO2 : Interpret the core claims of the source text, and assess their bearing on other areas of philosophy and humanistic inquiry.	• Mid-Term Essay • Final Essay
CLO3 : Reconstruct and appraise competing interpretations of the primary texts.	• Mid-Term Essay • Final Essay
CLO4 : Conduct independent research in philosophy.	• Study Partner Discussion Forum Posts • Mid-Term Essay • Final Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

This course will be conducted in the seminar format with multi-speaker discussions as the norm.

We will sit at desks in a circle. This may require us to move desks and tables at the start of each class.

Students are to come to class having prepared by reading the set text for the week.

Give yourself time to crystallise your thoughts on the set text by reading it a day or more before class.

The more engaged you are, the more engaging the class will be for you and for other people.

Additional Course Information

2024 Course Content

This year the focus of ARTS3360 is Plato. His work is not covered elsewhere in the UNSW philosophy curriculum. In previous years ARTS3360 has examined the writings of the eighteenth-century philosopher Immanuel Kant.

For millennia Plato has remained a touchstone for philosophical reflection. Over the term we will seek to come to grips with the many facets of his thought - the practice of democracy, the theory of knowledge, the literary talents, the interrogation of virtue and the questions of being and unity.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Study Partner Discussion Forum Posts Assessment Format: Group	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 19/04/2024 04:00 PM
Mid-Term Essay Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Due Date: 15/03/2024 04:00 PM
Final Essay Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Due Date: 26/04/2024 04:00 PM

Assessment Details
Study Partner Discussion Forum Posts

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

Students are to meet with a study partner five times over the course of the term to discuss the source text, prior to our having discussed it as a class, and write a short post for the discussion forum.

Length: 5 x 200 words

For each discussion forum post, both study partners receive a mark (each post out of 4%). Feedback via general discussion and responses on the discussion forum. Individual feedback is available upon request.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Explain the central doctrines of the source text for the course.
- CLO4 : Conduct independent research in philosophy.

Detailed Assessment Description

The division of the class into partnerships will take place in week 1.

If you prefer to carry out this assessment task solo, please advise the convenor.

There are nine teaching weeks in the term and there will be nine discussion fora to which you can post a reply. You are to post five times in total, with a post in five different weeks. If you post more than once in a given week, it counts still as only the one post for that week.

When referencing a particular passage in Plato, do not give the page number at the top or bottom of the page. Instead use the Stephanus pagination, which appears in the margins of the editions we are using.

Here is an example of an in-text citation using the Stephanus pagination: "Picture men dwelling in a sort of subterranean cavern with a long entrance open to the light on its entire width" (*Republic*, 514a).

The name Stephanus belongs to an early modern editor of Plato. Having a common referencing style across editions and translations is of benefit to the scholarly community for it faciltates debate among academics working with different versions of the text.

Assessment Length

5 posts of 200 words each

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Mid-Term Essay

Assessment Overview

Students will write a scholarly essay of 1,500 words on a topic provided by the convenor and drawn from the readings of the first four weeks of the course.

Feedback via written comments, rubric and a mark.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain the central doctrines of the source text for the course.
- CLO2 : Interpret the core claims of the source text, and assess their bearing on other areas of philosophy and humanistic inquiry.
- CLO3 : Reconstruct and appraise competing interpretations of the primary texts.

- CLO4 : Conduct independent research in philosophy.

<u>Detailed Assessment Description</u>

This assessment task draws on the readings for the first four weeks of the course.

Choose **one** of the four following questions:

1) At his trial Socrates claims to be a benefactor rather than danger to his fellow citizens (*Apology*, 36b-37a). What do you make of his defence and of the relationship he proposes between philosophical dialogue and democracy?

2) Is knowledge the prime requirement of the ruler, as Book VII of *Republic* argues? Explain your position.

3) What have the speakers in *Symposium* missed with regard to love? Offer an account that complements and/or criticises those put forward in the dialogue.

4) What is your evaluation of the conversation between Socrates and Diotima concerning love and beauty?

<u>Assessment Length</u>

1500 words

<u>Assignment submission Turnitin type</u>

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

Final Essay

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

Students will write a 2,500-word essay on a topic of their choosing, vetted by the convenor, addressing a problem in the source text and demonstrating an engagement with the secondary literature. Students will also present their topic in a workshop at the end of the term.

Feedback via written comments, rubric and a mark.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Explain the central doctrines of the source text for the course.
- CLO2 : Interpret the core claims of the source text, and assess their bearing on other areas of philosophy and humanistic inquiry.
- CLO3 : Reconstruct and appraise competing interpretations of the primary texts.
- CLO4 : Conduct independent research in philosophy.

<u>Detailed Assessment Description</u>

The final essay is to address a topic from the dialogues *Gorgias* and/or *Parmenides*. These are wide-ranging texts and have profound and contentious things to say about rhetoric, morality, truth, the doctrine of ideas, being, unity and difference.

It is up to you to settle on a topic. If you are personally interested in a topic, you will have a non-institutional motivation for writing your essay. If you disagree with Plato's treatment of a given topic, you will have an independent position (independent, at least, from Plato) from which to assess his reasoning and evidence. If you disagree with how a commentator has interpreted Plato, you will have the makings of an intervention in the critical literature.

There are three dates to bear in mind for this assessment task. They are underlined for emphasis.

E-mail the course convenor (j.phillips@unsw.edu.au) by 4 pm on <u>12 April</u> with a possible topic. You may want to consider sending a short opening paragraph that 1) indicates the topic you will be discussing, 2) refers to a couple of commentators on Plato whose positions you are contesting or extending (you are not restricted to the secondary materials on Leganto and will find more on the database https://philpapers.org), and 3) spells out the interpretative angle that you will be defending in the body of the essay.

If you are stuck for a topic, don't panic. It is OK to ask for suggestions and guidance. Do so sooner rather than later.

Students will also present their essay topics in a workshop in the final week of the term, <u>15 and 17 April</u> (three-minute presentation followed by two-minute Q&A). The workshop is not assessed, but it is an opportunity for students to road-test their ideas with their peers.

The essay is due in the following week, on <u>26 April</u>.

<u>Assessment Length</u>

2,500 words

<u>Assignment submission Turnitin type</u>

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

General Assessment Information

The rubric for the essays can be found on the course Moodle page under "Assessments".

Standard

Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course, a student must achieve a composite mark of at last 50 out of 100.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Seminar	Text to read before class: Plato, Apology
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Seminar	Text to read before class: Plato, Republic, Book VII
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Seminar	Text to read before class: Plato, Symposium, 172a-198a
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Seminar	Text to read before class: Plato, Symposium, 198a-223d
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Seminar	Text to read before class: Plato, Gorgias, 447a-481a
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Reading	No classes this week
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Seminar	Text to read before class: Plato, Gorgias, 481a-506a
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Seminar	Text to read before class: Plato, Gorgias, 506a-527e
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Seminar	Text to read before class: Plato, Parmenides, 126a-146a
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Seminar	Text to read before class: Plato, Parmenides, 146a-166b

Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

General Schedule Information

Above you will find a list of the weekly set readings. The readings themselves are available on Moodle via the Leganto link to the UNSW library.

When a dialogue, on account of its length, is the set reading for more than one week, you will see that a page span has been given using the Stephanus pagination. For these weeks, read up to that point in the text where you find the corresponding Stephanus page number in the margin.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

The weekly set readings are all accessible via Moodle.

Recommended Resources

A list of commentaries on each week's reading can be accessed via Leganto on Moodle.

The UNSW library contains additional resources on Plato.

Course Evaluation and Development

Please come talk to the course convenor 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.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	James Phillips		Office: Morven Brown 369	9065 1055	Friday 12 noon - 1 pm. Otherwise, please e-mail to arrange a face-to-face meeting or an on-line meeting at a time that suits.	No	Yes

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 Plagarism

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