UNSW Course Outline

ARTS2389 Philosophy as a Way of Life - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS2389
Year : 2024
Term : Summer
Teaching Period : U1
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 : Non Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

<u>Useful Links</u>

<u>Handbook</u> <u>Class Timetable</u>

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

How can I live a good life? This course will introduce you to some of the diverse philosophical traditions that have thought deeply and rigorously about how to live a good human life. We will approach these traditions not simply as a series of texts to be studied but also as a set of

principles to be lived. Course activities may therefore include living like a Stoic or a Confucian for a week. Philosophical traditions and topics studied may include: Ancient Chinese, Greek, and Roman philosophy; existentialism; virtue and happiness; social recognition; death and dying.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Explain some of the central theories of the good life from diverse philosophical traditions
CLO2 : Analyse critically with historical and contemporary texts in ethics and related areas
CLO3 : Appreciate how philosophical theories can be applied to everyday life

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Explain some of the central theories of the good life from diverse philosophical traditions	• Discussion forum posts • Final essay • Live Like a Stoic Week Reflections
CLO2 : Analyse critically with historical and contemporary texts in ethics and related areas	• Discussion forum posts • Final essay • Live Like a Stoic Week Reflections
CLO3 : Appreciate how philosophical theories can be applied to everyday life	• Final essay • Live Like a Stoic Week Reflections

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Additional Course Information

This iteration of the course will focus on ancient Greek and Roman views of philosophy as a way of life: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Cynics, the Stoics, and Epicurus. Particular emphasis will be placed on Stoic philosophy and practice.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Discussion forum posts Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Due Date: Various
Final essay Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Due Date: 02/02/2024 09:00 AM
Live Like a Stoic Week Reflections Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Due Date: Various

Assessment Details
Discussion forum posts

Assessment Overview

Students regularly post their reflection in conjunction with the assigned readings prior to the relevant class meetings.

Length: 100-150 words each x 8 posts over the term.

Feedback via mark on the individual posts, and responses from the instructor on the discussion forum.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain some of the central theories of the good life from diverse philosophical traditions
- CLO2 : Analyse critically with historical and contemporary texts in ethics and related areas

Detailed Assessment Description

Please see Moodle for more details

Submission notes

See Additional Resources for guidelines. Posts should be about 100 words, but it is fine if you take up to 200 (but no longer).

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Final essay

Assessment Overview

Students examine one of the theories of the good life discussed in the course and explain, apply, and critically evaluate its central principles.

Length: 1500-2000 words.

Feedback via mark and individual comment.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain some of the central theories of the good life from diverse philosophical traditions
- CLO2 : Analyse critically with historical and contemporary texts in ethics and related areas
- CLO3 : Appreciate how philosophical theories can be applied to everyday life

Detailed Assessment Description

Please see Moodle for more details.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Live Like a Stoic Week Reflections

Assessment Overview

Students write a daily short reflection during Live Like a Stoic Week.

Length: 100-150 words each x 6 posts.

Feedback via mark on the full set of posts.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain some of the central theories of the good life from diverse philosophical traditions
- CLO2 : Analyse critically with historical and contemporary texts in ethics and related areas
- CLO3 : Appreciate how philosophical theories can be applied to everyday life

Detailed Assessment Description

Please see Moodle for more details

General Assessment Information

Assessment 1: Students will need to complete 8 discussion forum posts on the readings. These

are valued at 5% each, for a total of 40% of the marks for the course.

Assessments 2 and 3 are linked. Students will complete daily reflections during Live Like a Stoic Week, which will run from 25-30 January 2024. These reflections will inform the practical assessment of Stoicism as way-of-life philosophy in the essay, which is due at **9am** on 2 February.

<u>Grading Basis</u>

Standard

<u>Requirements to pass course</u>

Students must meet the attendance requirement (i.e. must attend at least 75% of the in-class meetings, which is at least 9 of the 12 meetings) in order to pass the course.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Monday 8 January 2024	Seminar	Introduction to course; the figure of Socrates
Tuesday 9 January 2024	Seminar	Socrates and the Philosophy of Happiness (eudaimonia)
Wednesday 10 January 2024	Seminar	Plato's Socrates: Philosophy is Learning How to Die
Thursday 11 January 2024	Seminar	Aristotle on Nature and the Human Good
Monday 15 January 2024	Seminar	The Legacy of Socrates in Cynicism and Stoicism
Tuesday 16 January 2024	Seminar	The Stoic Principle: "live in accordance with nature"
Wednesday 17 January 2024	Seminar	Stoic Psychology
Thursday 18 January 2024	Seminar	The Stoic Theory of Emotion
Monday 22 January 2024	Seminar	Human Freedom
Tuesday 23 January 2024	Seminar	Epicurus on Nature, Pleasure and the Good
Wednesday 24 January 2024	Seminar	Epicurean Therapies for Death Anxiety
Thursday 25 January - Wednesday 31 January 2024	Homework	Live like a Stoic Week

Attendance Requirements

This is a course in philosophy as a way of life: we will centrally be concerned with philosophical questions about the nature of a good life, and whether or how a philosophy can be "lived". In-class activities will be essential for working through practical questions about philosophy as a way of life, and will also contribute substantially to student understanding of the philosophies under consideration. Therefore, students must attend at least 75% of the course meetings (i.e. at least 9 of the 12 scheduled in-person meetings), and actively participate in in-class activities and discussion. Unexcused absences of more than three course meetings (i.e. without a medical certificate, or an approved Special Consideration application) will result in the award of a fail grade. A roll will be taken each meeting. In course meetings you will actively engaging with core

course content, enabling you to attain CLO 1, 2, and 3.

General Schedule Information

Please see the Moodle page, where the class schedule (including information on assigned readings and assessments) is provided week-by-week.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

There are two required texts that *need to be purchased* from UNSW Bookstore:

- Plato, *Five Dialogues* (Hackett Publishing)
- Epictetus, *Discourses and Selected Writings* (Penguin).

Other required readings will be available via the COURSE READINGS link on Moodle, which takes you to the Leganto list of resources.

Recommended Resources

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry on Ancient Ethical Theory:

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-ancient/

The History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps podcast is also excellent:

https://historyofphilosophy.net/

Links to recommended (i.e. immediately relevant episodes) will be posted on Moodle page.

Additional Costs

The two required texts that need to be purchased from UNSW Bookstore (as noted above); these are inexpensive paperbacks, priced well under $20 each.

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	Melissa Merritt		MB341		Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 and by appointment	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 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