UNSW Course Outline

ARTS2362 Alienation and Social Critique - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS2362
Year : 2024
Term : Term 2
Teaching Period : T2
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

This course asks how a society can legitimately criticise itself. It examines notions such as freedom, self-determination and historical progress and their place in modern life. Are there plausible ways to judge some particular developments of social life as progressive or regressive?

Are some forms of social life 'pathological'? Is the price of modern freedom alienation from ourselves and the natural world? The themes discussed in this course may include: alienation, reification, ideology, totalitarianism, psychoanalysis and power. Thinkers who may be examined include: Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Feuerbach, Marx, Nietzsche, Lukács, Weber, Freud, Heidegger, Adorno, Horkheimer, Foucault, Habermas, Honneth, and other influential figures in critical social philosophy.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Evaluate the merits and limitations of key approaches to social critique.
CLO2 : Assess distinct concepts and ideas with regard to social critique in key works of philosophy.
CLO3 : Critically appraise the relevance of key approaches to social critique in modern philosophy to contemporary society.
CLO4 : Develop and enhance skills associated with philosophical inquiry, debate, and argumentation, in writing and in live discussion.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Evaluate the merits and limitations of key approaches to social critique.	• Short essay • Research Portfolio • Major Essay
CLO2 : Assess distinct concepts and ideas with regard to social critique in key works of philosophy.	• Short essay • Research Portfolio • Major Essay
CLO3 : Critically appraise the relevance of key approaches to social critique in modern philosophy to contemporary society.	• Research Portfolio • Major Essay
CLO4 : Develop and enhance skills associated with philosophical inquiry, debate, and argumentation, in writing and in live discussion.	• Major Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Short essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (5 days)	30%	Due Date: 28/06/2024 11:59 PM
Research Portfolio Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (5 days)	20%	Due Date: 09/08/2024 11:59 PM
Major Essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (5 days)	50%	Due Date: 06/08/2024 11:59 PM

Assessment Details

Short essay

Assessment Overview

This is a short essay, completed within the first five weeks of the course, that is primarily a close reading exercise. Students must explain and interpret a key paragraph from a canonical work in philosophy.

Feedback via written comment and/or marking sheet.

Length: 1200 words

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Evaluate the merits and limitations of key approaches to social critique.
- CLO2 : Assess distinct concepts and ideas with regard to social critique in key works of philosophy.

Detailed Assessment Description

Assessment Length

1200 words

Assessment information

Essay themes will be discussed in tutorials and instructions will be available on Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Research Portfolio

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

A research portfolio where students address issues and questions from their weekly readings for the course. The portfolio is a record of students' preparation for class each week.

Students will write as a minimum 6 x 300 word reading summaries and/or textual analysis as well as a 200 word reflection on the research portfolio itself.

The written form of the portfolio is less formal than an essay and may be a mix of prose and bullet points.

This portfolio requires students to reflect on their own learning in the course and how assessment tasks, including the research portfolio itself, may contribute to this.

Feedback via written and/or oral comment.

Length: approx. 2000 words

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>
- CLO1 : Evaluate the merits and limitations of key approaches to social critique.
- CLO2 : Assess distinct concepts and ideas with regard to social critique in key works of philosophy.
- CLO3 : Critically appraise the relevance of key approaches to social critique in modern philosophy to contemporary society.

<u>Assignment submission Turnitin type</u>

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

Major Essay

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

This is the final assessment task for attendance purposes. Students will write a major essay on a key figure or theme in the course. Preparation includes active attendance in class.

Feedback via written comments and/or a marking sheet.

Length: 2200 words

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Evaluate the merits and limitations of key approaches to social critique.
- CLO2 : Assess distinct concepts and ideas with regard to social critique in key works of philosophy.
- CLO3 : Critically appraise the relevance of key approaches to social critique in modern philosophy to contemporary society.
- CLO4 : Develop and enhance skills associated with philosophical inquiry, debate, and argumentation, in writing and in live discussion.

Detailed Assessment Description

Assessment Length

2200 words

Assessment information

Essay themes will be discussed in the tutorials and instructions will appear on Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

See MOODLE.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Introduction Social philosophy, social reality, social critique, alienation, utopian visions.
	Tutorial	Tutorial discussion on the lecture themes and on themes in the texts by the young Marx.
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Reification What is 'reification'? Is all reification bad, or only some of it? Reification of the social world, reification of human beings, reification of nature? How are these issues related to commodification (all things being regarded as commodities)?
	Tutorial	Tutorial on the lecture themes and the text by Lukacs.
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	Ideology and ideology-critique What is ideology? Are my thoughts and feelings affected by it and if so how? Classical and contemporary accounts.
	Tutorial	Lecture themes and Haslanger's recent account of ideology.
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Power What is power? Is all power good, or bad? Or is some of it good and some bad?
	Tutorial	Lecture themes and the text.
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Subjectivity, subjecthood, identity Continuation from previous week. Is human subjectivity formed by external power structures? Are there ways to resist? Views by Louis Althusser, Judith Butler, and others.
	Tutorial	Lecture themes and Althusser's text.
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Psychoanalysis and social life Is the society to blame for all human evil, or are there deep sources for aggression built in the human psychic structure? Views by Sigmund Freud, Melanie Klein and others.
	Tutorial	Lecture themes, Adorno's text, the return of fascism.
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Colonization of the life-world by the system The complexity of modern societies, their differentiation into 'life-world' and 'system', and the colonization of the former by the latter according to Habermas. The idea of emancipation through discourse.
	Tutorial	Habermas' attempt to overcome overly pessimistic views of modern life and of the possibilities to beat the 'system', and other themes from the lecture.
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	Recognition and the good life What is recognition? Why do we want/need it? What is its significance for evaluation and critique of societies or social life?
	Tutorial	The different forms of recognition, their importance, and the consequence of lack thereof.
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Freedom We all want to be free, but what does that actually mean? A lot hangs on the answer to this question.
	Tutorial	Freedom, and other themes from the course

Attendance Requirements

School policy: Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes for the School of Humanities and Languages courses in which they are enrolled. Students who do

not meet attendance expectations run the risk of failing a course. No additional or special consideration will be provided if a student misses out on essential course information and materials, or misses an assessment task/deadline, due to unexplained absences or an unapproved lack of attendance. A student may be advised by the Course Convenor to withdraw from the course if significant learning activities are missed. Alternatively, a student may be required to undertake supplementary class(es) or task(s) as prescribed by the Course Convenor. If assessment tasks or learning activities have been missed, the student should apply for Special Consideration, accompanied by appropriate documentation.

Particular to this course: attending to at least 80% of the weekly tutorials is a minimum requirement. Students are expected to have read the reading for each week and either attended the lecture or listened to the lecture recording before each tutorial.

- 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

The weekly readings will be accessible through Moodle.

Recommended Resources

A list of further reading will be available on Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is collected through 'MyExperience' and the Research Portfolio, and used for future improvements of the course. The current iteration of the course has taken into account the feedback from the previous iteration and course contents have been adjusted according to the current term structure.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Heikki Ikäheimo		Morven Brown 321		Contact by email for consultation	Yes	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