



UNSW

UNSW Course Outline

ARTS2360 Knowledge and Reality - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS2360

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

Nothing is more human than to think that reality gives us knowledge. Nothing is more human than to wonder what, if anything, is real. When philosophy seeks to understand these fundamental and vital aspects of people and the world, we gain both an epistemology and a

metaphysics. Some metaphysical topics that the course might explore include these: what it is to be a person; what it is to have a free will (if indeed anyone ever does); whether there is, or even could be, a supremely good and knowing and powerful god; whether there is any meaning to human life; whether there is any harm in death as such; and what makes two different individual things able to be examples of one kind of thing. Some epistemological issues that the course might explore include these: what it is for a thought or claim to be true; what it is for a thought or claim to be rationally well supported; what it is for a thought or claim to be knowledge; what it is to have knowledge via the senses; what it is to have knowledge purely via reason; and whether it might be impossible for us ever to have any knowledge or rational support at all.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from metaphysics.
CLO2 : Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from epistemology.
CLO3 : Engage critically and imaginatively with those ideas and those ways of thinking from metaphysics.
CLO4 : Engage critically and imaginatively with those ideas and those ways of thinking from epistemology.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from metaphysics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Analysis Exercise• Reflective journal• Research Essay
CLO2 : Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from epistemology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Analysis Exercise• Reflective journal• Research Essay
CLO3 : Engage critically and imaginatively with those ideas and those ways of thinking from metaphysics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflective journal• Research Essay
CLO4 : Engage critically and imaginatively with those ideas and those ways of thinking from epistemology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflective journal• Research Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Zoom | Microsoft Teams | Echo 360

Learning and Teaching in this course

We are taking an active approach to consider what students will learn from this course. We are integrating awareness of AI-generated material in class discussions and assignments, with a view to equipping students with greater agency in thinking about how they can *critically* think about such material. We seek to encourage students to move away from being merely passive actors, where they gain neither skills nor knowledge in simply getting AI to generate responses.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Critical Analysis Exercise Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	20%	Due Date: 16/06/2024 11:55 PM
Reflective journal Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	35%	Due Date: 27/07/2024 11:55 PM
Research Essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	45%	Due Date: 06/08/2024 11:55 PM

Assessment Details

Critical Analysis Exercise

Assessment Overview

Students will be asked to mark up key themes in selected primary text passages, and to elaborate on their meaning and significance in max 300 words. There will be practice exercises in tutorials prior to this assignment. Due near the start of term so that students receive feedback early on in light of which they can improve in future assignments.

Formative assessment.

Students receive a mark and written feedback.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from metaphysics.
- CLO2 : Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from epistemology.

Detailed Assessment Description

The text provided will be AI-generated and students will be asked to evaluate the quality of the AI-generated text.

Assessment Length

300 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Reflective journal

Assessment Overview

Students are to write their reflections on the material covered in class EACH WEEK, from Weeks 1 to 8. Max length: 150 words per week.

Marks will be allocated to reflections on 4 of the 8 weeks (e.g., weeks 2, 3, 5, 7). The 4 weeks will be randomly selected by the lecturer (they will be the SAME 4 weeks for all students).

Summative assessment.

Students receive a mark and written feedback.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from metaphysics.
- CLO2 : Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from epistemology.
- CLO3 : Engage critically and imaginatively with those ideas and those ways of thinking from metaphysics.
- CLO4 : Engage critically and imaginatively with those ideas and those ways of thinking from epistemology.

Detailed Assessment Description

These reflections *must* be based on what is discussed in the classroom. We are not seeking summaries of what philosophers think. And neither do we want class summaries. We want to know what *you* have thought about, in light of what was discussed in either lectures or tutorials in a particular week.

Therefore, referencing for this assignment will be a little different. You might refer, for instance, to:

The discussion about idea X (in Tutorial wk 7) focused on....

You won't need to provide full references such as

Aquinas, Thomas, St., *Summa Theologica* (1a Q2), "Whether the Existence of God is Self-Evident (Thomas More Publishing, 1981)

But you will need to provide references such as

"Aquinas' view that xxx (n "Whether God Exists," *Summa Theologica*)..."

Submission notes

Please only upload one file, with each week's reflections beginning on a new page

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Research Essay

Assessment Overview

A sustained philosophical engagement with one of the topics, ideas, arguments, or texts covered in the course. Length: 2,000 words.

Formative assessment.

Rubric marking in Turnitin.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from metaphysics.
- CLO2 : Recognise and discuss some historically and philosophically important ideas and ways of thinking from epistemology.
- CLO3 : Engage critically and imaginatively with those ideas and those ways of thinking from metaphysics.
- CLO4 : Engage critically and imaginatively with those ideas and those ways of thinking from epistemology.

Detailed Assessment Description

Note: there is an assignment requirement that you utilise at least two sources from the course reading list.

Referencing systems such as APA, Harvard or Chicago may be used. There is no set referencing

system but the referencing system selected by the student must be applied consistently throughout the assignment.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

Students must meet the attendance requirement (i.e. must attend at least 75% of the in-class lectures and tutorials, which is at least 20 of the 27 classes) in order to pass the course.

Students are required to attempt all 3 assignments in order to pass the course. You are not required to pass every single assignment, but you have to attempt all of them.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Monday Lecture The world and its creator
	Lecture	Friday Lecture Problem of Evil
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Monday Intelligent design or chance?
	Lecture	Friday Intelligent design or chance?
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Online Activity	Monday - public holiday Online activity will be offered. The online activity will help prepare students for the first assignment.
	Lecture	Friday Religious epistemology: exploring religious belief
	Assessment	Assignment 1, Critical Analysis Exercise, due on 16th June. Check Moodle.
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Monday What does it mean to know something?
	Lecture	Friday Different types of knowing: is knowing-to a type of knowledge?
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Monday Where does the 'mind' stop and the 'body' begin?
	Lecture	Friday Personal identity: who am I, after all?
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Monday Identity and Thinghood: what is a 'thing'?
	Lecture	Friday Necessity and Essentiality: what does it mean to exist? And what does non-existence mean?
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Monday Necessity and Essentiality: what does it mean to exist? And what does non-existence mean?
	Lecture	Friday Vagueness?
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	Monday Vagueness?
	Lecture	Friday Space-time and causation: we consider some super paradoxes!
	Assessment	Assignment 2, Reflective Journal, due on 27th July. Check Moodle.
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Monday Space-time and causation
	Lecture	Friday The Euthyphro Dilemma: Is something good because the gods love it? Or do the gods love it because it is good?
Week 11 : 5 August - 11 August	Assessment	Assignment 3, Research Essay, due on 6th August. Check Moodle.

Attendance Requirements

Students must meet the attendance requirement (i.e. must attend at least 75% of the in-class lectures and tutorials, which is at least 20 of the 27 classes) in order to pass the course.

- 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.

General Schedule Information

This course is organised according to exciting "big questions" in philosophy, including the Problem of Evil, Space-time causation, Intelligent Design and Personal Identity.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Readings will be made available through Leganto (via Moodle), other course links (also Moodle), and at the UNSW Library.

Course Evaluation and Development

Students have liked the teaching in this course and enjoyed the topics covered on questions about knowledge and reality. This year, we take a philosophical-problems based approach to consider exciting big questions raised by philosophers!

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Karyn Lai		Morven Brown 326		Monday 12 noon, or email for an appointment	Yes	Yes
Lecturer	Maximilian Rabie				Email to make an 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