



UNSW Course Outline

ARTS1360 Truth and Human Existence: Introduction to Philosophy - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS1360

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 : Multimodal

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 addresses core philosophical questions about knowledge, reality, and human

existence. You will examine what it means for something to be true and how we know whether something is true; what are the fundamentals of the universe and the place of science and religion in discerning them; what are the basic constituents of human societies, and how all these questions are related to what and who you are. In investigating these topics we will study the views of both classical and contemporary philosophers. This course will help you develop the critical and analytical thinking skills necessary for advanced study and your future career. While this is a standalone introductory course, it can be usefully combined with ARTS1361: Mind, Ethics, and Freedom - Introduction to Philosophy.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Explain central concepts in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
CLO2 : Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
CLO3 : Assess the comparative merits of distinct positions in foundational works in Western epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
CLO4 : Interrogate canonical texts in Western epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy, and examine how they have influenced contemporary society and institutions.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Explain central concepts in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.	• Critical Analysis
CLO2 : Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.	• Major essay • Critical Analysis
CLO3 : Assess the comparative merits of distinct positions in foundational works in Western epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.	• Major essay
CLO4 : Interrogate canonical texts in Western epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy, and examine how they have influenced contemporary society and institutions.	• Major essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Critical Analysis Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (5 days)	40%	Due Date: 30/06/2024 11:59 PM
Major essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (5 days)	60%	Due Date: 06/08/2024 11:59 PM

Assessment Details

Critical Analysis

Assessment Overview

Short written argument analysis (1,000 words).

Feedback via rubric, mark and individual written comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Explain central concepts in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
- CL02 : Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.

Assessment Length

1000 words

Assessment information

Full details of this assessment task will be available on the course Moodle page.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Major essay

Assessment Overview

1500 words. A critical research essay on a select topic from the course; students select from a list of possible essay topics.

Feedback via rubric, mark and individual written comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
- CLO3 : Assess the comparative merits of distinct positions in foundational works in Western epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy.
- CLO4 : Interrogate canonical texts in Western epistemology, metaphysics, and social and existential philosophy, and examine how they have influenced contemporary society and institutions.

Assessment Length

1500 words maximum

Assessment information

Essay questions and advice on essay writing will be provided on the course Moodle page and in the tutorials.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

General Assessment Information

Full up to date information on all assessments will be published on the course Moodle page.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Bullshit and lies: what is the difference? + live online Q&A with the lecturer Lecturer: Karyn Lai
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Philosophy and uncertainty + live online Q&A with the lecturer Lecturer: Karyn Lai
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	Absurdity: Philosophy and the Meaning of Life + live online Q&A with the lecturer Lecturer: Karyn Lai
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Humanity, Nature and the Origins of Civilisation + live online Q&A with the lecturer Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Existentialism: Freedom and Anguish + live online Q&A with the lecturer Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Other	Flexibility week. Now lectures or tutorials.
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Vulnerability and cultural anxiety + live online Q&A with the lecturer Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	What does it mean to be a person: fundamental questions about what we are + live online Q&A with the lecturer Lecturer: Heikki Ikäheimo
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	What is the human world made of: fundamental questions of social ontology + live online Q&A with the lecturer Lecturer: Heikki Ikäheimo
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Social critique: How to evaluate and criticize social reality so that it might actually make a difference? + live online Q&A with the lecturer Lecturer: Heikki Ikäheimo

Attendance Requirements

Attendance of Tutorials is mandatory in this course. Unexcused absence from more than 20% of Tutorials will result in the award a fail grade. A record of tutorial attendance will be kept by the tutor. In online Tutorials attendance requires keeping the camera on and responding when asked. (If you are worried of privacy please consider using a virtual background.)

- 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

All readings will be available through a Leganto link on the course Moodle page.

Recommended Resources

Information on resources is available on the course Moodle page

Course Evaluation and Development

MyExperience is used to assess and to improve this course.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Heikki Ikäheimo		Morven Brown Building, Room 321		Email for appointment	No	Yes
Lecturer	Karyn Lai		Morven Brown, Room 326		Email for appointment	No	No
	Simon Lumsden		Morven Brown, Room 335		Email for appointment	No	No
Tutor	Yu-Yi Lai				Email for appointment	No	No
	Finnegan Hasssey				Email for appointment	No	No
	Max Hoddinott				Email for appointment	No	No
	Elka Sadler				Email for 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