UNSW Course Outline

ARTS2105 Happiness and Philosophy - 2024

Published on the 25 Aug 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS2105
Year : 2024
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
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

Happiness has been pursued by individuals and groups across many cultures and times. Yet it is
a concept that takes many different forms and inspires passionate debate and deep
disagreement. This course will draw on the history of philosophy across several traditions, as

well as contemporary research, to explore questions such as, what is the relationship between happiness and pleasure? Is happiness an emotion, a mental state, a social construct, or an objective condition? How is well-being/happiness pursued across different cultures, including Australian Indigenous cultures? And what does happiness have to do, if anything, with the philosophical idea of a well-lived life? This course doesn't promise to make you happy, but it will certainly help you to clarify your thinking about happiness and the meaning(s) of life.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Identify the philosophical themes and issues raised in thinking about happiness.
CLO2 : Explain and evaluate major theories and arguments in philosophies of happiness.
CLO3 : Engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas covered in the course.
CLO4 : Communicate ideas effectively in formal and informal writing and in oral presentations.
CLO5 : Demonstrate skills of scholarly inquiry associated with the study of philosophy, including critical analysis, textual interpretation, and argument.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Identify the philosophical themes and issues raised in thinking about happiness.	• Short Essay
CLO2 : Explain and evaluate major theories and arguments in philosophies of happiness.	• Major essay • Short Essay
CLO3 : Engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas covered in the course.	• Tutorial Presentation • Major essay • Short Essay
CLO4 : Communicate ideas effectively in formal and informal writing and in oral presentations.	• Tutorial Presentation • Major essay
CLO5 : Demonstrate skills of scholarly inquiry associated with the study of philosophy, including critical analysis, textual interpretation, and argument.	• Major essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Short Essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	35%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 27/09/2024 04:59 PM
Tutorial Presentation Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable
Major essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	50%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 22/11/2024 04:59 PM

Assessment Details

Short Essay

Assessment Overview

Students prepare and write a short essay on a topic provided by the Convenor. This will relate to philosophers and issues covered in the first 3 weeks of the course.

Length: 1000 words

Feedback is written and/or marking sheet or rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify the philosophical themes and issues raised in thinking about happiness.
- CLO2 : Explain and evaluate major theories and arguments in philosophies of happiness.
- CLO3 : Engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas covered in the course.

Detailed Assessment Description

Students prepare and write a short essay of 1,000 words on a topic provided by the Convenor. This will relate to philosophers and issues covered in the first 3 weeks of the course. Students will be expected to relate their essay to some aspect of the field trip to the UNSW Museum of Human Disease in Week 2.

The primary sources for this short essay should be the set readings from the week most relevant to your question. It is only necessary to refer to 2-3 readings *outside* the set readings. It is more important that you demonstrate your understanding of the class materials. There should be no use of generative AI in this assessment, either for research or for the writing.

Assessment Length

1000 words

Assessment information

Refer to Moodle for submission information

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Tutorial Presentation

Assessment Overview

Students will give a 5-minute presentation at the tutorial they are assigned. The students should decide together which aspects of the topic and which readings, or parts of readings, they will each discuss (to avoid overlap).

Feedback via rubric and individual written comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO3 : Engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas covered in the course.
- CLO4 : Communicate ideas effectively in formal and informal writing and in oral presentations.

Detailed Assessment Description

Each week, 2-3 students will give a **5-minute individual presentation** at the tutorial. The students should decide together which aspects of the topic and which readings, or parts of readings, they will each discuss (to avoid overlap). Each student will speak for 5 minutes and will be assessed individually. Presenters are expected to do two key things: 1) Choose a contemporary or historical example (from history, the news, pop culture, etc.) and use it to illuminate a key theme of the chosen reading. 2) Based on the reading, pose 1 question to the class, with the aim of

prompting discussion and debate of the topic. These questions might, for example, identify a confusion or lack of clarity in the Reading, or identify a point of complexity, or real-world relevance, that the class can tackle together. Any subsequent discussion does not count towards the 5-minute presentation. Presenters should not summarize the lecture content. The presentation should be a new experience for students in the class, who are expected to have read the readings and attended the lecture.

Convenor assigns mark and provides written feedback.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

Refer to Moodle for submission information

Major essay

Assessment Overview

Students will prepare and write a research essay of 2,000 words on topics provided by the Convenor. These will relate to topics covered in weeks 4 to 10.

Feedback via rubric and individual written comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Explain and evaluate major theories and arguments in philosophies of happiness.
- CLO3 : Engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas covered in the course.
- CLO4 : Communicate ideas effectively in formal and informal writing and in oral presentations.
- CLO5 : Demonstrate skills of scholarly inquiry associated with the study of philosophy, including critical analysis, textual interpretation, and argument.

Detailed Assessment Description

Students prepare and write a research essay of 2,000 words on one of the topics provided by the

Convenor. These will relate to topics covered in weeks 4 to 10. Beginning in Week 7, a part of each tutorial will be devoted to research and writing strategies, with a general check-in on student progress towards completion of this assessment. When students submit their research essay, they are required to include a 1-2 page summary of this research and writing process.

This is a research essay. This means that as well as referring to the set readings for your chosen topic, you should be conducting your own research. You should be referring primarily to academic sources (books, book chapters and journal articles) not to blog posts, Wikipedia, etc. There should be no use of generative AI in this assessment, either for research or for the writing. You should refer to **at least 5 academic sources** that you select on the basis of your own research.

Assessment Length

2000 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

Refer to Moodle for submission information

General Assessment Information

Detailed information for each assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Lecture	Introduction to "Happiness" and "Philosophy"
	Tutorial	Happiness: First Questions
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Lecture	Real Life, Real Pain, Real Happiness [+ Field Trip]
	Tutorial	Is Ignorance Bliss?
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Lecture	Ancient Happiness 1: Aristotle
	Tutorial	Happiness, Well-Being, the Well-Lived Life
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Lecture	Ancient Happiness 2: Stoicism
	Tutorial	Stoic Happiness
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Lecture	Modern Happiness 1: Kant and Morality
	Tutorial	How important is happiness?
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Activity	Flexibility Week - no lectures or tutorials
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Lecture	Modern Happiness 2: Utilitarianism
	Tutorial	"The Greatest Happiness of the Greatest Number"
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Lecture	Measuring Happiness
	Tutorial	How happy are you?
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Lecture	Critiques of Happiness
	Tutorial	What does happiness do?
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Lecture	Australian Indigenous Conceptions of Well-Being
	Tutorial	Social and Emotional Wellbeing in Indigenous Communities

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

The course will comprise a two-hour weekly lecture, and a 1.5-hour weekly tutorial.

Lectures will be interactive, and student participation is encouraged. Lectures will cover key themes and specific texts in modern philosophy, as well as background historical issues.

Through a selection of readings, exercises, and tutorial activities, the course will develop students' ability to read, analyse, criticise, discuss, and interpret philosophical texts.

Tutorials are a key element of the teaching strategy of the course. Students are required to engage thoroughly with the prescribed weekly readings before class. Student presentations during tutorials will focus discussion on areas of shared interest and contemporary relevance of the themes covered.

We expect students to participate in this course by attending lectures and engaging with others

in tutorials, and to complete the required reading in preparation for tutorials and lectures.

Course Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

This is a new course, running for the first time in T3 2024. We look forward to receiving student feedback, both through myExperience and informal channels, to help us to improve this course in future iterations.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Timothy O'Leary		Morven Brown, 368		By appointment	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 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