



UNSW
SYDNEY

Australia's
Global
University



ARTS1361

Mind, Ethics, and Freedom: Introduction to Philosophy

Term One // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Markos Valaris	m.valaris@unsw.edu.au	Wednesday, 2-3	MB 339	9385 2760

Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Simon Lumsden	s.lumsden@unsw.edu.au	Thursday 1:30-2:30	MB 335	9385 2369
David Bronstein	d.bronstein@unsw.edu.au	Thursday 1-2	MB 344	9385 3669

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Philosophy*

Philosophy examines the fundamental presuppositions of every area of human life and inquiry. This course introduces you to philosophy by taking up questions about the nature of knowledge, the human mind and its relation to the body, the principles of right action and of a good life, and freedom and constraint in a just political order. We will examine both contemporary and historically influential approaches. 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 ARTS1360: Truth and Human Existence.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Correctly apply central concepts in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.
2. Critically evaluate arguments in epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.
3. Assess the comparative merits of distinct positions in foundational works in Western epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.
4. Interrogate canonical texts in Western epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy.

Teaching Strategies

The course is taught through two one-hour weekly lectures and a one-hour weekly tutorial, plus six hours of online activities over the course of the term. The lectures provide background to the texts examined in the course, and explain the central concepts, arguments, and themes. The tutorials provide the opportunity to discuss the readings and topics covered in the lectures. The aim is to get you to develop and practise skills of critical thinking, argumentation, and communication. Learning in this course is supported by a range of specially developed online activities.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Online Test	15%	Online Quiz 1: 9 March. Online Quiz 2: 30 March. Online Quiz 3: 27 April.	1,2
Critical Analysis	25%	06/04/2020 11:59 PM	1,2,3
Major Essay	60%	01/05/2020 11:59 PM	1,2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Online Test

Start date:

Details: Three-part multiple-choice online test (20 minutes each part) assessing comprehension of central concepts and arguments covered in the course. Each component of the test covers roughly a 3-week span of the course. Feedback via Moodle (right answers and numerical score).

Assessment 2: Critical Analysis

Start date:

Details: 500-600 words A critical analysis of a selected passage to develop skills in argument reconstruction (identifying an argument's premises, inferential steps, and conclusion) and critical assessment of the reconstructed argument. Feedback via rubric and a mark.

Assessment 3: Major Essay

Start date:

Details: A critical research essay of around 1500 words on a select topic from the course. You will select from a list of possible essay topics. Feedback via rubric, voice or typed comments, and a mark. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

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

Attendance Requirements

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

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 17 February - 21 February	Lecture	1st Hour: Knowledge and Scepticism 2nd Hour: What Am I? Lecturer: Markos Valaris
	Reading	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> : Meditations I and II OPTIONAL: Aristotle, <i>On the Soul</i> , Book II Ch. 1 (412a6-413a20)
	Tutorial	Knowledge and Scepticism
	Web	Optional Online Activity (open for the duration of the course) Watch and discuss the movie <i>Memento</i> (2000, Christopher Nolan (dir.)). You can access the movie through Moodle (via the UNSW library).
Week 2: 24 February - 28 February	Lecture	1st Hour: Clear and Distinct Perceptions 2nd Hour: God, Evil, and Error Lecturer: Markos Valaris
	Reading	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> : Meditations III-V. J.L. Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence". Optional: Kenneth Hilma, <i>Anselm: the Ontological argument</i> (the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy)
	Tutorial	God and Evil
	Web	Practice argument analysis assigned.
	Web	Practice online quiz.
Week 3: 2 March - 6 March	Lecture	1st Hour: Knowledge and Understanding 2nd Hour: Consciousness and the Mind/Body Problem

		Lecturer: Markos Valaris
	Reading	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy: Meditation VI</i> . Linda Zagzebski, 'Recovering Understanding'. Princess Elisabeth's First Letter to Descartes (6.v.1642) Frank Jackson, 'Epiphenomenal Qualia' (excerpt), pp. 128-130.
	Tutorial	Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Mind/Body Problem
Week 4: 9 March - 13 March	Lecture	Aristotelian Ethics: Virtue and Happiness Lecturer: David Bronstein
	Reading	Aristotle, excerpts from <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> . OPTIONAL: Martha Nussbaum, 'Non-Relative Virtues: an Aristotelian Approach'
	Tutorial	Virtue and Happiness
	Assessment	Online Quiz 1: Monday 9 March
Week 5: 16 March - 20 March	Lecture	Kantian Ethics: Duty and Motive Lecturer: David Bronstein
	Reading	Immanuel Kant, excerpts from <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> . Christine Korsgaard, excerpts from <i>The Sources of Normativity</i>
	Tutorial	Kantian Ethics; Practice Critical Analysis discussed.
	Assessment	Critical analysis assigned, Monday 16 March
Week 6: 23 March - 27 March	Lecture	Utilitarian Ethics: Pleasure and Purpose Lecturer: David Bronstein
	Reading	John Stuart Mill, excerpts from <i>Utilitarianism</i> . Peter Singer, 'Famine, Affluence and Morality'.
	Tutorial	Utilitarian Ethics
Week 7: 30 March - 3 April	Lecture	1st Hour: The State of Nature and Natural Law. 2nd Hour: The State and the Social Contract Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
	Reading	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> : Chapters 13, 14, 17, 18, 21.
	Assessment	Online Quiz 2: Monday 30 March
Week 8: 6 April - 10 April	Lecture	1st Hour: Property and Freedom

		2nd Hour: Rousseau's Alternative: inequality and the state of nature Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
	Reading	John Locke, 'Of Property'. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse</i> : Preface and excerpts from Parts 1 and 2.
	Tutorial	Property and Inequality
	Assessment	Critical Analysis Due: Monday 6 April
	Assessment	Final Essay Assigned
Week 9: 13 April - 17 April	Lecture	1st Hour: 'Can one be forced to be free?' Rousseau's social contract and the general will. 2nd Hour: Liberalism.
	Reading	Jean Jacques Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> : Book 1, Chapters 6-8; Book 2, Chapters 1-5. Isaiah Berlin, 'Two Concepts of Liberty'.
	Tutorial	Concepts of Freedom in Political Philosophy
	Web	Online Essay-Writing Workshop
Week 10: 20 April - 24 April	Lecture	1st Hour: What is Political Liberalism? Tolerance, Pluralism, and Justice 2nd Hour: Problems with Liberal Freedom: Values, self-realisation, and positive freedom Lecturer: Simon Lumsden
	Reading	Rawls, excerpts from <i>Political Liberalism</i> Charles Taylor, 'What's Wrong with Negative Liberty?'
	Tutorial	Political Liberalism and Critiques
Week 11: 27 April - 28 April	Assessment	Online Quiz 3: Monday 27 April
	Assessment	Final Essay Due: 1 May

Resources

Prescribed Resources

- René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (trans. John Cottingham), Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy

Recommended Resources

- The Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback for this course will be gathered informally throughout its duration, and formally at the end via myExperience. We are always keen to hear from you what works and what does not. Do not hesitate to contact the convenors, lecturers, or tutors with any comments or queries.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

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 also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information 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 before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, 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.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and 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 also 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

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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