ARTS1360

Introducing Moral, Social and Political Philosophy

Semester One // 2018

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Melissa Merritt	m.merritt@unsw.edu.au	Thursdays 2:30-3:30	Room 341 Morven Brown Building	9385 2764
Simon Lumsden	s.lumsden@unsw.edu.au	Fridays 11-12 (Weeks 1-12); also Mondays 10-11 (Weeks 7-12 only)	Room 335 Morven Brown Building	9385 2369

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Heikki Ikäheimo	h.ikaheimo@unsw.edu.au	Wednesdays 3:30-4:30	Room 321 Morven Brown Building	9385 2373

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 4:45pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they

may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; 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/

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Philosophy*

This course introduces you to key figures and topics in moral, social, and political philosophy. What makes an action good or bad? What is a morally good life — and why should one try to live one? What do we owe one another? What is justice? What is freedom — both as a moral, and a political concept? What are the foundations of society? What are the moral and political dangers of alienation? You will examine different approaches to these questions from key figures of the Western tradition, such as: Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Mill, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Marx. You will also examine contemporary ethical issues, and explore how fundamental moral and political commitments are articulated in today's society.

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. Explain central concepts in moral, social, and political philosophy
2. Critically evaluate arguments in moral, social, and political philosophy
3. Assess the comparative merits of distinct positions in foundational works in Western moral, social, and political philosophy
4. Interrogate canonical texts in Western moral, social, and political philosophy and examine how they have influenced contemporary society and institutions

Teaching Strategies

The course is taught through two one-hour weekly lectures and a one-hour weekly tutorial. The lectures introduce key figures and themes in moral, social and political philosophy. The lectures also provide important background to texts, themes, and figures examined in the course. The lectures are organised around foundational texts in the history of philosophy and contemporary philosophy. Successful participation in the course requires students to prepare for lectures and tutorials by reading the prescribed texts. The tutorials provide the opportunity to discuss the readings and topics covered in the lectures. Students will be encouraged to relate the course's core themes and texts to contemporary debates. Some time in tutorials will be devoted to developing skills in reading and interpreting philosophical texts. You will be encouraged to participate in the tutorials by preparing questions for class discussion, and by attempting to respond to questions asked by your tutor and other students.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Essay	45%	01/06/2018 04:00 PM	2,3,4
Critical Analysis	35%	29/03/2018 04:00 PM	1,2
Online test	20%	see additional information below	1

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1500 words

Details: 1500 words. An evaluative essay that compares two approaches to a select topic from at least two of the philosophers studied. Feedback via rubric and a mark. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

Additional details:

A complete instruction sheet, with a choice of possible essay topics will be provided in Week 10.

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

Assessment 2: Critical Analysis

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 800-900 words

Details: 800-900 words A critical analysis of a selected passage in one of the assigned texts that reconstructs its argument (specifying its premises, inferential steps, and conclusion), assesses the soundness of the reconstructed argument, and considers its wider philosophical implications.Feedback via rubric, written or voice comments, and a mark.

Additional details:

Details for this assessment will be available on Moodle starting from Week 3.

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

Assessment 3: Online test

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: Two-part online test (30 minutes each part)

Details: Two-part online test (30 minutes each part) assessing comprehension of central concepts and arguments covered in the courseMultiple-choice test scored online.

Additional details:

This is a multiple-choice test taken on Moodle. It consists of two parts, which cover material from the first and second parts of the course respectively. Each part is worth 10% of your total grade for this course.

Part 1:   Tuesday, 10 April (test available on Moodle from 6am to 11:59pm)

Part 2:   Tuesday, 22 May (test available on Moodle from 6am to 11:59pm)

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

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.

Late Assessment Penalties

An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).

The late penalty is the loss of 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late. Lateness will include weekends and public holidays. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted fourteen (14) days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component, a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted twenty-one (21) days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

* Prevent you from completing a course requirement,

* Keep you from attending an assessable activity,

* Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,

* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration webstie:
https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

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 information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.

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)

Course Schedule

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 26 February - 4 March	Lecture	**Lecture 1 (Monday): Freedom and Happiness as Ethical Concepts & Course Introduction** *no reading associated with this lecture*
	Lecture	**Lecture 2 (Tuesday): Plato: Fundamental Questions of Ethics** **Required Reading:** Plato, *Republic*, Book 1 (all) and Book 2 (through 362c only) -- This is pages 1-37 in the required edition of the *Republic* (translated by G.M.A. Grube and C.D.C Reeve, Hackett Publishing) available at the UNSW Bookstore.
	Tutorial	Tutorials start this week.
Week 2: 5 March - 11 March	Lecture	**Lecture 3 (Monday): What is virtue, and what is it good for?** **Required Reading:** Plato, *Republic*, Book 4 (from beginning through 441c) -- This is pages 94-117 in the required edition of the *Republic*.
	Lecture	**Lecture 4 (Tuesday): What is a person?** **Required Reading**: Harry Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person" -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Tutorial	Critical Reading practice.
Week 3: 12 March - 18 March	Lecture	**Lecture 5 (Monday): Plato on "the Form of the Good"** **Required Reading**: Plato, *Republic* Book 5 (473c-end, at 480a) & Republic 6-7 (504a-518d) -- This is pages 148-156 **and** 177-190 in the required edition of the *Republic*.
	Lecture	**Lecture 6 (Tuesday): Freedom in Stoic Ethics** **Required Reading:** selections from Epictetus, *Discourses, Fragments, Handbook* in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Tutorial	Discussion: Freedom in Plato and Epictetus.

Week 4: 19 March - 25 March	Lecture	**Lecture 7 (Monday): Kant on Unconditioned Value** **Required Reading:** Kant, *Groundwork* [most of Part I (4:393-404)] -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Lecture	**Lecture 8: Kant on the Categorical Imperative** **Required Reading:** selections from Part II of Kant's *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* (4:412-16 and 427-36) + two paragraphs from the *Metaphysics of Morals* (6:381-2 and 385-6). These selections are found in the ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Tutorial	The categorical imperative as a decision procedure
Week 5: 26 March - 1 April	Lecture	**Lecture 9 (Monday): Happiness as the Highest Good in Utilitarianism** **Required Reading:** excerpt from J.S. Mill, *Utilitarianism* -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Lecture	**Lecture 10 (Tuesday): Utilitarianism Applied** **Required Reading:** Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Tutorial	Critiques of utilitarianism
	Assessment	Critical Analysis Essay is due this week -- Thursday, 29 March, 4pm -- via file upload through the relevant Turnitin link on the Moodle page for this course.
Break: 2 April - 8 April		
Week 6: 9 April - 15 April	Lecture	**Lecture 11: Moral Relativism v. Universalism** **Required Reading:** Martha Nussbaum, "Non-Relative Virtues: An Aristotelian Approach" -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Assessment	**Tuesday 10 April -- Online Test:** Part 1 is available on Moodle from 6am to 11:59 pm today. The test consists of 20 randomly selected multiple-choice questions. You have 30 minutes from when you begin the test to complete your answers.
	Tutorial	*There are no tutorials this week.*
Week 7: 16 April - 22 April	Lecture	**Lecture 12 (Monday): The State of Nature and Natural Law** **Required Reading:** Hobbes, *Leviathan* Chapters 13 and 14 -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.

	Lecture	**Lecture 13 (Tuesday): The Social Contract as the Means to Legitimate Government** **Required Reading:** Hobbes, *Leviathan* Chapters 17, 18, 21 -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Tutorial	Hobbes
Week 8: 23 April - 29 April	Lecture	**Lecture 14 (Monday): Early Liberalism: Property as a Constraint** **Required Reading:** John Locke, "Of Property" -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Lecture	**Lecture 15 (Tuesday): Rousseau's Alternative Vision of the State of Nature, and the Origins of Inequality** **Required Reading:** J.-J. Rousseau, *Second Discourse,* Preface and excerpts from Parts 1 and 2 -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Tutorial	Rousseau
Week 9: 30 April - 6 May	Lecture	**Lecture 16 (Monday): Can one be forced to be free? The Problem of the General Will** **Required Reading:** J.J. Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book 1, chapters 6-8 and Book 2, chapters 1-5 -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Lecture	**Lecture 17 (Tuesday): Liberalism: Negative Freedom and the Problem with Positive Freedom** **Requried Reading**: I. Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty" -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Tutorial	Liberalism and Freedom
Week 10: 7 May - 13 May	Lecture	**Lecture 18 (Monday): What is Political Liberalism? Tolerance, Pluralism, and Justice.** **Required Reading:** J. Rawls, excerpts from *Political Liberalism* -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader
	Lecture	**Lecture 19 (Tuesday): Problems with Liberal Freedom -- Values, Self-Realisation and Positive Freedom** **Required Reading:** C.Taylor, "Negative Liberty" -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Tutorial	Liberalism and Freedom
Week 11: 14 May - 20 May	Lecture	**Lecture 20 (Monday): Alienation and the Limits of Freedom**

		Required Reading: K. Marx, "Estranged Labour" -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Lecture	**Lecture 21 (Tuesday): Arendt's Critique: or, Why Freedom is Action** **Required Reading:** H. Arendt, "What is Freedom?" -- in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Tutorial	Critiques of Liberalism
Week 12: 21 May - 27 May	Lecture	**Lecture 22: Conformism and Social Freedom** **Required Reading:** H. Arendt, "The Rise of the Social", and M. Heidegger, selection from *Being and Time* -- both in ARTS 1360 Course Reader.
	Assessment	**Tuesday 22 May -- Online Test:** Part 2 is available on Moodle from 6am to 11:59 pm today. The test consists of 20 randomly selected multiple-choice questions. You have 30 minutes from when you begin the test to complete your answers.
	Tutorial	*No regular tutorials this week. Staff will be available during tutorial times for consultation for final essays. Details (locations, times, and staffing) to be announced on Moodle.*
Week 13: 28 May - 3 June	Assessment	**Final essays due Friday 1 June by 4pm, via file upload** -- look for the appropriate Turnitin link on the Moodle page for this course.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

There are **two required texts** for this course. Both are available at the UNSW Bookstore.

- Plato, Republic. Translated by G.M.A. Grube and C.D.C Reeve. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1992.
- ARTS 1360 Course Reader

Recommended Resources

- Website – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Course Evaluation and Development

We will examine student responses in Your Experience and take feedback into account as we revise the course each year. We may also run informal questionnaires on Moodle to assess student experience of the course.

Image Credit

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