ARTS2382

Philosophy of Religion: Defenders and Critics

Semester One // 2018

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Peter Slezak	p.slezak@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Room 315	(02)9385-2422

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*

In this course, you will study key ideas in philosophy of religion including: conceptions of deity, cosmos, life and death, human society, the natural environment, human action, and ritual and ethical practices. You will investigate some of these topics: how religious ideas are expressed and justified in different religions; how thinkers such as Anselm and Aquinas, and contemporary philosophers, make a case for the existence of God; critiques of religion by influential critiques of religion by thinkers such as Hume, Feuerbach, Nietzsche, Freud and others; the concept of evil; religion and morality; religion and gender; miracles; free will and determinism and the meaning of life. Key questions you will explore include: Did the universe have a cause? Is the order and regularity in the world evidence of intelligent purpose and design, or are they the result of mere chance? Are science and religion compatible? Is there a realm of understanding which is beyond scientific knowledge?

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

1. articulate key ideas and concepts in philosophy of religion
2. appreciate the significance of the historical context of key arguments in the field
3. identify the main arguments of major traditional and contemporary thinkers in the philosophy of religion
4. engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas
5. display developed written and oral communication skills

Teaching Strategies

The course is taught primarily in face-to-face mode, supplemented by online discussions and Leganto resources. Lectures provide a grounding in key thinkers and debates in the field while tutorial discussions extend the material covered in the lectures. Students will be encourage to participate actively in the week-to-week progression of the course through the online moodle discussions. These discussions also provide formative feedback from the lecturer and peers on each student's progress toward achieving the CLOs. The tests, and the final essay, are summative.

Assessment

[Here you can outline any relevant information that was not included in AIMS but may prove helpful for your students. For example, you might provide details on the referencing system, links to previous student exemplars or the designated week in the course that you will discuss the assessment at length. Importantly, this section is an area for you to provide information that does not go through the approved governance structure.]

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research Essay	40%	28/05/2018 04:00 PM	2,3,4,5
Test	30%	09/04/2018 and 28/05/2018	1,2,3
Critical Reflections	30%	28/05/2018 04:00 PM	1,2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2,500 words

Details: Essay length is 2500 words. Students will receive a mark and brief comments for the essay. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes. As it is summative assessment, comments provided will be brief.

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

Assessment 2: Test

Start date: 09/04/2018 09:00 AM

Details: There will be two 50-minute in-class tests during semester, each worth 15%.Students will receive written feedback.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Critical Reflections

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Six critical reflections, 200 words each, on assigned dates throughout semester. (Each reflection is worth 5%)Students will be provided with written feedback on their assignments.

Submission notes: Critical reflection assignments may be submitted at any time but will all be due on

the indicated date.

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	Religion & Origins of Western Science
Week 2: 5 March - 11 March	Lecture	Miracles, Naturalism
Week 3: 12 March - 18 March	Lecture	Necessary Being, Ontological Argument & The Problem of Evil
Week 4: 19 March - 25 March	Lecture	Natural Theology & Teleological Proof
Week 5: 26 March - 1 April	Lecture	Creationism, Evolution, Intelligent Design & Fine Tuning
Break: 2 April - 8 April		
Week 6: 9 April - 15 April	Lecture	Church & Science: The Galileo Affair
Week 7: 16 April - 22 April	Lecture	Cosmological Argument: Creation ex nihilo
Week 8: 23 April - 29 April	Lecture	First Cause: Big Bang Cosmology
Week 9: 30 April - 6 May	Lecture	Free Will, Determinism & Moral Responsibility
Week 10: 7 May - 13 May	Lecture	Ethics of Belief, Pascal's Wager
Week 11: 14 May - 20 May	Lecture	Religion & Ethics: Non-overlapping magisteria.
Week 12: 21 May - 27 May	Lecture	Values & the Meaning of Life
Week 13: 28 May - 3 June	Lecture	Religion & Society: Freud & Marx

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Prescribe readings for tutorial discussion will be made available online in Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Not available

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will be through anonymous My Experience

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