



UNSW
SYDNEY



ARTS2876

Understanding the Self

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|---------------|----------------------|---|------------------------|-------|
| Joseph Alizzi | j.alizzi@unsw.edu.au | Zoom, Skype and/or Teams by appointment | Online or Morven Brown | TBD |

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Each of us has a self and an identity by virtue of being human. But do other living beings have a self? Do other living beings have society in the same way humans do? In this course, you will consider some traditional assumptions of selfhood (e.g., the capacity for reason, speech, and memory) from different sociological perspectives. You will consider some interdisciplinary challenges to these assumptions. You will examine arguments for and against extending selfhood to other living beings in order to add complexity and texture to sociological attempts to understand the self. This course will give you many opportunities to consider the relevance of theories of the self for further studies in Sociology and Anthropology and for other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain key issues relevant to sociological perspectives on the self
2. Distinguish between sociological perspectives on the self
3. Apply sociological perspectives on the self to lived experience
4. Use skills associated with scholarly inquiry including those related to critical analysis, argument and written expression.

Teaching Strategies

Rationale:

This course is based on the following principles:

1. To create an intellectually stimulating space for students that rewards active engagement with challenging concepts
2. To read primary texts without the use of secondary sources, commentaries or digested summaries.
3. To foster dialogue in and out of class between students, and with their teachers in order to create a community of learners
4. To read generously
5. To create a cooperative learning environment
6. To encourage student responsibility to the broader academic community

Teaching Strategies:

This course will consist of a two-hour lecture and one-hour tutorial and associated online learning activities.

Lectures: The lectures will combine the techniques of a traditional lecture with the interaction and dialogue typically associated with tutorials. Students are encouraged to participate actively in lectures by questioning and commenting on the course material. Lectures will rely on textual commentary, film and visual imagery to explicate the concepts found in the readings.

Tutorials: Tutorials will be used to organise small groups to establish a collaborative working environment where students can learn from one another.

Reading Questions: For each weekly reading, you will find reading comprehension questions posted to the University LMS. These will help to orient you with respect to the arguments presented in the assigned readings.

Assessment

- You will have an opportunity to get ungraded feedback on your first workbook entry
- You will have online activities that help you develop skills for writing your workbook and essay
- Both assessments rely only on the texts considered in the course
- You will be able to progressively build on your knowledge so that your final essay is informed by each week's consideration of ideas and examples

Assessment Tasks

| Assessment task | Weight | Due Date | Student Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Workbook | 60% | | 1, 2, 3 |
| Essay | 40% | | 2, 3, 4 |

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Workbook

Length: Approximately 500 words per week

Details:

Students will prepare written entries of 1-2 pages on the assigned readings each week. The work will be submitted and assessed periodically through the term.

Feedback: Written comments and graded against a criteria sheet.

Additional details:

TBD

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

Assessment 2: Essay

Length: 1500 words

Details:

Students will write an essay (1500 words) that reflects on 2-3 critical learning experiences in relation to course content

Feedback: Written comments and graded against a criteria sheet.

Additional details:

TBD

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: 15 February - 19 February | Lecture | Introduction Online – See Moodle for details Thursday February 18th No assigned reading |
| | Tutorial | Tutorials begin this week, ensure you know the time and location for the tutorial - either online or in the allocated room on campus |
| | Online Activity | See Moodle for details |
| Week 2: 22 February - 26 February | Lecture | Thinking the Self – Descartes Thursday February 25th Online – See Moodle for details |
| | Reading | Descartes, R. ([1638]1986) <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> (Cottingham, J. [trans]), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Excerpts, pp.12-15, 16-23 |
| | Tutorial | As scheduled |
| | Online Activity | See Moodle for details You may submit your first workbook effort (before/after entries) for ungraded feedback |
| | Assessment | You may submit your first workbook effort (before/after entries) for ungraded feedback |
| Week 3: 1 March - 5 March | Lecture | Society and the Self - Durkheim Thursday March 4th Online – See Moodle for details |
| | Reading | Durkheim, E. ([1914]2005), 'The dualism of human |

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| | | nature and its social conditions', <i>Durkheimian Studies</i> , vol.11, pp.35-45 |
| | Tutorial | As scheduled |
| Week 4: 8 March - 12 March | Lecture | The Unconscious and the Self - Freud Thursday March 11th Online – See Moodle for details |
| | Reading | Freud, S. (1989) 'Civilization and its discontents', in Gay, P. (ed.), <i>The Freud Reader</i> , W.W.Norton, NY, pp.722-772 |
| | Tutorial | As scheduled |
| | Online Activity | See Moodle for details |
| Week 5: 15 March - 19 March | Lecture | Labour and the Self - Marx Thursday March 18th Online – See Moodle for details |
| | Reading | Marx, K (2000) 'Economic and philosophical manuscripts' in McLellan, D. (ed.), <i>Karl Marx: Selected Writings</i> , 2nd edn., Oxford University Press, Oxford, Excerpts pp.83-95 |
| | Tutorial | As scheduled |
| | Online Activity | See Moodle for details |
| Week 6: 22 March - 26 March | Online Activity | Flexibility Week! There are no scheduled lectures or tutorials this week. In lieu of lecture/tutorial, please complete this online activity (see Moodle for details). |
| | Reading | (For Online Activity) Coetzee, J.M. (1999) 'The philosophers and the animals' in <i>The Tanner Lectures on Human Values</i> , Delivered at Princeton University, October 15, 1997, pp.113-143 Kafka, F. (1971) 'A report to an academy', in <i>Franz Kafka: The Complete Stories</i> , Schocken Books, New York, pp.250-259 |
| | Tutorial | No tutorial this week |
| | Lecture | The Animal and the Self - Descartes, Derrida Thursday 1st April |

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| | Reading | Descartes, R. (1988) 'Discourse on the method – part V', in Descartes: Selected Philosophical Writings, (Cottingham, J. & Stoothoff, R. trans.), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge pp.40-46 |
| | | Derrida, J. (2004) 'Violence against animals' in <i>For What Tomorrow: A Dialogue</i> , Stanford university Press, Stanford pp.62-76 |
| | Tutorial | No tutorial due to public holiday, online activity. |
| | Online Activity | Activity in lieu of tutorial - See Moodle for details |
| Week 8: 5 April - 9 April | Lecture | Morality and the Self - De Waal Thursday 8th April Online – See Moodle for details |
| | Reading | De Waal, F. (2003) 'Morality and the social instincts: Continuity with the other primates', <i>The Tanner Lectures on Human Values</i> , delivered at Princeton University, November 19-20, 2003, pp.3-39 |
| | Tutorial | As scheduled |
| | Online Activity | See Moodle for details |
| Week 9: 12 April - 16 April | Lecture | Time and the Self - Bergson Thursday 15th April Online – See Moodle for details |
| | Reading | Bergson, H. ([1907]1983), <i>Creative Evolution</i> , Macmillan Press, London, excerpts pp.10-16, and 17-23 |
| | Tutorial | As scheduled |
| | Assessment | Workbook: your entries for weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 (6 in total) are due on Sunday April 18, before 11.59pm. |
| Week 10: 19 April - 23 April | Lecture | Death and the Self - Becker Thursday 22nd April Online - See Moodle for details |
| | Reading | Becker, E. (1973) <i>The Denial of Death</i> , selections |

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| Tutorial | As scheduled. |
| Assessment | <p>Essay</p> <p>Your essay is due on Friday April 30 before 11.59pm</p> |

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Print copies of the weekly assigned readings have been compiled into an 'ARTS2876 Study Kit' which is available for purchase at the UNSW Bookshop. Electronic copies of the readings are also available on the ARTS2876 Moodle page: <http://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au>

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will be gathered through myExperience surveys, and you will be given opportunities throughout the semester to give informal feedback. *ARTS2876 Understanding the Self* was last taught in 2019. That cohort of students gave positive feedback on the course.

Based on the feedback, the following changes to the course have been made:

1. Content - the content has been modified in order to privilege depth rather than breadth given the pressures of the trimester system;
2. Announcements - video segments may be uploaded to Moodle in order to address issues related to assessment and course business. This will give us more time in lectures to discuss course content.

The feedback was very much appreciated, and I look forward to implementing these suggestions in 2020. Best wishes for the coming term!

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/>

Image Credit

Image: Tree ring & human fingerprint

Date: May 2019

Source: Reddit (Accessed 15 January 2021)

URL: https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/grcz20/tree_ring_human_fingerprint/

CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.