ARTS3366

Contemporary Debates in Moral and Political Philosophy

Term Two // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Heikki Ikäheimo	h.ikaheimo@unsw.edu.au	Thursdays 9.45-10.45am	Morven Brown 321	93852373

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

Human beings are evaluators: we praise and blame, take things to be good and bad, and think of ways that we, and the world we live in, could be better than they currently are. This course examines the nature of value by taking up key topics in contemporary moral and political philosophy. Are values a function of human desires, choices, and affective states – or do they obtain independently of such affective responses and attitudes? Do we create or discover the values that govern our moral and political communities? What are freedom, sovereignty, autonomy and public reason as ethical and political ideals? Are moral and political communities properly restricted to human beings, or should they include non-human animals? Why do we value democratic government and how do we make it work under current social, technological and economic conditions? Do we need to rethink democracy and community if we are to offer viable ethical and political responses to climate change? These are the sorts of questions explored in this advanced course, through focused engagement with key debates in contemporary moral and political philosophy. Precise topics and areas may vary from year to year.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Awareness of some of the central philosophical debates in moral theory.
2. The ability to engage critically with historical and contemporary texts in moral theory.
3. The ability to assess the merits and weakness of moral arguments.
4. The ability to recognize and understand the metaphysical and epistemological underpinnings of various moral theories.
5. The ability to compose clear and insightful analytical essays.
6. The ability to communicate complex ideas in conversation clearly and succinctly.

Teaching Strategies

Please refer to the information in Moodle

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Essay 1	40%	12/07/2019 11:59 PM	1,2,4,5,6
Final essay	60%	16/08/2019 11:59 PM	2,3,4,5,6

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Essay 1

Start date:

Length: 1500 words

Details: 1500 words. Students receive written feedback.

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

Assessment 2: Final essay

Start date:

Length: 2500 words

Details: 2500 words. Students receive written feedback. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

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

Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 3 June - 7 June	Lecture	Introduction to the theme of the course: Personhood
	Tutorial	Tutorial discussion on issues raised in the lecture, such as can non-human animals be persons, and if so in what sense, or are all human beings independently of their capacities persons in some sense, and if not what follows from that.
Week 2: 10 June - 14 June	Lecture	Personhood and difficult cases: abortion and people with intellectual disabilities; the question of non-human persons. Reading: Michael Tooley: 'Abortion and Infanticide'. Philosophy and Public Affairs, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Autumn, 1972), pp. 37-65. Heikki Ikäheimo: 'Personhood and the Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities – A Recognition-theoretical Approach'. In Kristjana Kristiansen, Tom Shakespeare, and Simo Vehmas (eds.): Arguing About Disability, Routledge, 2009.
	Tutorial	Tutorial for questions and discussion.
	Online Activity	Film and online discussion.
Week 3: 17 June - 21 June	Lecture	Personhood and morality by Immanuel Kant and contemporary Kantians. Guest lecture by Melissa Merritt. The reading will be announced on Moodle.
	Tutorial	Tutorial for questions and comments.
Week 4: 24 June - 28 June	Lecture	Introduction to the metaphysics of personhood Reading:

		Robert Spaemann, Persons - The Difference Between 'Someone' and 'Something'. Oxford University Press, 2006, pp. 1-40.
	Tutorial	Tutorial for questions and discussion.
Week 5: 1 July - 5 July	Lecture	Negativity, intentionality, and transcendence. Reading: Spaemann: Persons, pp. 41-80.
	Tutorial	Tutorial for questions and discussion.
Week 6: 8 July - 12 July	Lecture	Fiction, religion, and temporality. Reading: Spaemann, Persons, pp. 81-123.
Week 7: 15 July - 19 July	Lecture	Contexts of significance, subjects, and souls. Reading: Spaemann: Persons, pp. 124-163.
Week 8: 22 July - 26 July	Lecture	Conscience, recognition, and freedom. Reading: Spaemann: Persons, pp. 164-196.
	Web	Tutorial for questions and comments.
Week 9: 29 July - 2 August	Lecture	Are all humans persons? Reading: Spaemann: Persons, pp. 197-248.
	Tutorial	Tutorial for questions and comments.
Week 10: 5 August - 9 August	Lecture	A holistic conception of personhood. Remaining themes and problems. Reading will be announced on Moodle.
	Tutorial	Concluding discussion.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

You need to obtain a copy of Robert Spaemann: Persons -- The Difference between 'Someone' and 'Something'. Oxford University Press, 2006. The other readings will be available through Moodle.

Recommended Resources

List of additional literature will be available on Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Students have the opportunity to provide feedback on the course formally at the end of term via the MyExperience survey and informally via face-to-face communication or e-mail with the course convenor. The feedback will be used for improving future courses.

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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