1. Course Staff and Contact Details

Lecturer and Co-ordinator
Dr. Michaelis Michael.
Office: Morven Brown Building room 325
Office phone number: 9385 2183
Email: m.michael@unsw.edu.au

Tutors
Mr Alessio Tacca
Email a.tacca@unsw.edu.au

Ms Sophie Vivian
Email s.vivian@unsw.edu.au

Dr Max Rabie
Email m.rabie@unsw.edu.au

Class Times and Locations

Lectures: Webster Theatre B 10am-12noon
Tutorials: 1pm – 3pm
Mathews 307
Mathews 308
Mathews 310
Webster 302

The Course runs between Wednesday 2nd December 2015 and Monday 14th December 2015.

Consultation times: by arrangement. Since the course is in intensive mode, we will often be in class together. But feel free to contact the lecturer by email or by phone. Be aware that long email responses are not possible given time constraints and the number of students. You can arrange a meeting with the lecturer or your tutor by email.
**Course Description**

**Aims:** This is a 6UOC course that aims to introduce you to and to develop some key skills involved in critically assessing and developing arguments. More broadly, the course aims to develop skills and abilities that are essential for dealing discursively with open intellectual questions and complex practical issues and problems of many kinds, and it is expected that students who successfully complete the course will have improved their ability to think for themselves in a wide variety of contexts. In particular, you will develop the skills of identifying and analyzing arguments; of being able to identify presuppositions of questions.

**Overview of Course Content:** The understanding we have of our nature as reasoning beings and perhaps more is a fascinating topic which has captivated thinkers for thousands of years. In this course we will chart its history and focus on the developments in the recent past.

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### 2. Course Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
<th>Graduate Attributes Assessed</th>
<th>Date of Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Answer Exercise</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
<td>Thu 4 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Answer Exercise</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1,2</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
<td>Mon 7th Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Answer Exercise</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
<td>Tues 8th Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Answer Exercise</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
<td>Wed 9th Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final In Class Exam</td>
<td>3 Hrs</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,5</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
<td>Mon 14th Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are two components to the assessment. In class exercises will assess the student’s ability to analyze arguments, to explore concepts and theories, and generally to reason and argue about issues and ideas arising out of the set material. A final exam covers all material covered in the subject basic understanding of the overall course content.

**Exercises:** There will be four short answer exercises held in tutorials, Thursday 4th of December, Monday 7th of December, Tuesday 8th of December and Wednesday 9th of December. Questions will be based on material presented in lectures and selected readings from assigned readings. The exercises will test your understanding of course content and are each worth 15% of the final mark.

**Final exam:** Monday 14th of December from 10am to 1pm. The exam is worth 40%.

**Note:** Attendance at class is a course requirement. Students who fail to attend at least 80% of classes without documented reasons for special consideration may be given a grade of Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) for this course.

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**OUTSIDE CLASS ACTIVITIES**

There will be four activities outside class times. These are required activities. They are aimed at developing your skills and familiarizing you with the material we cover.

YOU MUST DO THESE ACTIVITIES. Access these activities via MOODLE.

The first occurs on Wednesday 2nd December. This will take no more than ten minutes. We will be registering whether you have done this activity through Moodle.
The second activity occurs on the weekend Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th of December. This will involve examining a passage and discerning the arguments within. This is not assessed and should take about two hours.

The third occurs on the weekend Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December. This is a practice exam and is not assessed. The sorts of questions covered in the practice exam will be similar to those covered in the exam on Monday 15th December. This should take 30 minutes.

The fourth activity also takes place on the weekend of Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th Dec and is an unassessed quiz. We will be registering whether you have done this activity through Moodle. This should take less than 30 mins.

3. Learning and Teaching Rationale

This is a second-level philosophy course suitable for students who wish to develop their own understanding of the use and analysis of arguments. It is a 6 Units of Credit course.

No prior background in philosophy is assumed, but students should have obtained at least 36 units of credit prior to commencing the course.

The course encourages students to actively engage in philosophical inquiry as well as to acquire a significant skill set. A mixture of reading, lectures, web-based activity and support, discussion and exercises writing will be used. Apart from illuminating the set reading material for each class, lectures will pay particular attention to the development of skills in conceptual exploration and the analysis and construction of argument. The development of these skills will also be supported through materials made available on the class Moodle website and through discussion in class.

Readings
All readings will be available on Moodle or through links provided.

Wednesday 2nd December
Nozick – The Nature of Rationality
Russell – ch 1 of The Problems of Philosophy
Harman – Change in View (chapters 1 & 2 in particular

Thursday 3rd December
Class Notes on Truth and Validity

Friday 4th December
Class Notes on Aristotle’s Logic

Monday 7th December
Class Notes on Aristotle’s Logic (again)

Tuesday 8th December
Class notes on Truth Tables and Connectives
David Kaplan “The Meaning of ‘Oops’ and ‘Ouch’”
Wednesday 9th December

Stanford Encyclopedia Of Philosophy article on vagueness by Roy Sorensen
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/vagueness/
See section (2.1) in Stanford Encyclopedia Of Philosophy article on Assertion
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/assertion/

Thursday 10th December

René Descartes – Meditation 1
Edmund Gettier – Is Knowledge Justified True Belief?
Karl Popper – Science: Conjectures and Refutations
Carl G. Hempel “Studies in the Logic of confirmation” Mind 1945

Friday 11th December

Simon Blackburn – Relatively Speaking

4. Course Resources

Textbook Details
See Moodle Site
Journals
See Moodle Site
Additional Readings
See Moodle Site
Websites

RELEVANT RESOURCES

Materials related to each class will be made available on the Moodle site or links will be provided.
Other useful resources are
JSTOR is a very useful resource for finding articles. If you are on campus, you can go there directly to download articles: http://www.jstor.org/
If you are off campus, go to the library catalogue and look up JSTOR in the catalogue then click on “Online Access”, you should then be asked to login to your UniPass account and you will have full access to JSTOR.
Eg, here is an article you might find interesting:
Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/2254477

The hyperlink will only get you the paper directly if you are on campus. If you are not then you will need to login to your UNSW account go to the library catalogue (NOT SIRIUS) and look up JSTOR in the catalogue. Once in JSTOR you can paste in the hyperlink.

Advice about Intensive Mode Classes

This class meets every day (excluding weekends) for two hours of lecture and two hours of tutorials. There are four short assessment tasks which take place in the tutorials over the nine teaching days. It is intensive in format and for that reason skipping classes is a really bad idea. Whereas with classes taught over three months, you have the chance to catch up if you fall behind, in a class
taught in intensive mode there is no prospect of that. And given the nature of this course, you would be in a serious disadvantage. Material which occurs on one class is built on in the next. This means that missing one class puts you in risk of not successfully completing this subject.

Inquiries
If you have inquiries about the reading, your assessments or the course in the first instance contact your lecturer, Michaelis Michael. The lecturer in this course is available for consultation at his listed consultation times, and at other times by appointment (contact details below).

If there is an issue relating to the course that you feel you need to discuss with someone other than the lecturer, please contact the Philosophy Programme Co-ordinator, Assoc.Professor Karyn Lai, k.lai@unsw.edu.au.

If you are contacting your tutor or the lecturer by E-mail please provide your name and a telephone number as well as your UNIVERSITY E-mail address.

5. Course Details

Course Aims
- Provide a broad introduction to some of the most central concepts and issues in critical thinking, from both a classical and a contemporary perspective.
- Encourage in-depth analysis of individual philosophical problems, arguments, and positions, together with the development of an understanding of the wider philosophical context in which they arise.
- To enhance the development of the skills and reasoning ability associated with the discipline of philosophy.
- Provide opportunities for developing the skills necessary for scholarly inquiry, including written and oral communication skills, information literacy and research skills, and critical and analytic skills

Student learning outcomes
Upon completing this course, you are expected to be able to:
1. Identify arguments in extended passages.
2. Analyse and assess arguments once identified.
3. Formulate, analyse, and respond critically to the problems, arguments, and positions covered in the course.
4. Use formal methods to aid in the critical analysis of arguments and their representation.
5. Apply analytical skills developed to case studies.

Attributes of UNSW Graduates
1. The skills involved in scholarly enquiry
2. An in-depth engagement with the relevant disciplinary knowledge in its interdisciplinary context
3. The capacity for analytical and critical thinking and for creative problem-solving
4. The ability to engage in independent and reflective learning
5. Information literacy - the skills to appropriately locate, evaluate and use relevant information
6. The capacity for enterprise, initiative and creativity
7. An appreciation of, and respect for, diversity
8. A capacity to contribute to, and work within, the international community
9. The skills required for collaborative and multidisciplinary work
10. An appreciation of, and a responsiveness to, change
11. A respect for ethical practice and social responsibility
12. The skills of effective communication.
6. Teaching Strategies

These attributes have been identified by UNSW as the characteristics it seeks to instill in its students. They include generic skills, such as information literacy and research skills, as well as more specialised skills for collaboration and effective communication. They also include more general and personal qualities, which are displayed in your relations with others and engagement with the wider world. There a number of ways in which this course contributes to graduate attributes.

First, the teaching strategies used encourage analytic and critical thinking skills, as well as the skills of effective communication. You are encouraged to express and refine your own views of the topics discussed, and engage with the complexities of various approaches to philosophical problems.

Second, the content of the course encourages the development of a respect for diversity and intellectual fair-play, as you are required to engage deeply with viewpoints that you may strongly disagree with.

Third, the assessment package in the course is designed to allow you to develop analytic and critical thinking skills, research skills, and effective communication skills. It also allows you to enhance your ability to engage in creative problem solving and independent learning.
## 7. Course Schedule

*To view course timetable, please visit:* [http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/](http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/)

### Week 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Wednesday 2(^{nd}) Dec</th>
<th>Thursday 3(^{rd}) Dec</th>
<th>Friday 4(^{th}) Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10am—12noon Lectures</td>
<td>What we do with language</td>
<td>Validity and Proof</td>
<td>Aristotelian Logic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objectivity/Subjectivity</td>
<td>Argument Structures &amp; Truth</td>
<td>Categorical Propositions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tutorials 1pm to 3pm**

- 1\(^{st}\) Assessment Task
  - Identifying arguments
  - 15%
  - tutorial

### Week 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday 7(^{th}) Dec</th>
<th>Tuesday 8(^{th}) Dec</th>
<th>Wednesday 9(^{th}) Dec</th>
<th>Thursday 10(^{th}) Dec</th>
<th>Friday 11(^{th}) Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10am—12noon Lectures</td>
<td>Aristotle Logic</td>
<td>Compositionality &amp; Truth Tables</td>
<td>Vagueness, questions &amp; presupposition</td>
<td>Scepticism, Science &amp; Knowledge</td>
<td>Objectivity &amp; Relativism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syllogisms &amp; Venn Diagrams</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tutorials 1pm to 3pm**

- 2\(^{nd}\) Assessment Task
- 3\(^{rd}\) Assessment Task
- 4\(^{th}\) Assessment Task
- Validity & Soundness
- Aristotle
- Truth-Tables
- Syllogisms 15%
- 15%
- tutorial
- tutorial
- tutorial
- no tutorial
Please Note: The Arts and Social Sciences Protocols and Guidelines state:

A student who attends less than 80% of the classes/activities and has not submitted appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain their absence may be awarded a grade of UF (Unsatisfactory Fail).

The Attendance Guidelines can be found in full at: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/Protocols-Guidelines/

**Formal Examination**

This course has a formal examination which is scheduled on Monday 14th December 2015. Students are expected to give their studies priority and this includes making themselves available for the entire examination period. Travel commitments made prior to the publication of the final examination timetable are not a valid reason for alternative assessment.

For information about examination dates, location and procedures at UNSW, visit: https://student.unsw.edu.au/exams

**Grades**

All results are reviewed at the end of each semester and may be adjusted to ensure equitable marking across the School.

The proportion of marks lying in each grading range is determined not by any formula or quota system, but by the way that students respond to assessment tasks and how well they meet the objectives of the course. Nevertheless, since higher grades imply performance that is well above average, the number of distinctions and high distinctions awarded in a typical course is relatively small. At the other extreme, on average 6.1% of students do not meet minimum standards and a little more (8.6%) in first year courses. For more information on the grading categories see: https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades

### 8. Extension of Time for Submission of Assessment Tasks

The Arts and Social Sciences Extension Guidelines apply to all assessed tasks regardless of whether or not a grade is awarded, except the following:

1. any form of test/examination/assessed activity undertaken during regular class contact hours
2. any task specifically identified by the Course Authority (the academic in charge of the course) in the Course Outline or Learning Management System (LMS), for example, Moodle, as not available for extension requests.

The complete Arts and Social Sciences Extension Guidelines can be read here.

If you wish to request an extension for submission of an assessment task you need to do so via myUNSW using the Special Consideration section. You will need to submit documentary evidence in support of your request.

A student who missed an assessment activity held within class contact hours should apply for Special Consideration via myUNSW.
9. Attendance

The Arts and Social Sciences Attendance Guidelines state the following:

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

- If a student is unable to attend all classes for a course due to timetable clashes, the student must complete the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Permitted Timetable Clash form (see information at Item 8 below). A student unable to attend lectures in a course conducted by the School of Education can apply for “Permission to Participate in Lectures Online”.

- Where practical, a student’s attendance will be recorded. Individual course outlines/LMS will set out the conditions under which attendance will be measured.

- 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, should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

- Reserve members of the Australian Defence Force who require absences of more than two weeks due to full-time service may be provided an exemption. The student may also be permitted to discontinue enrolment without academic or financial penalty.

- If a Course Authority rejects a student’s request for absence from a class or activity the student must be advised in writing of the grounds for the rejection.

- 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.

- The Dean will only grant such a request after consultation with the Course Authority to ensure that measures can be organised that will allow the student to meet the course’s learning outcomes and volume of learning.

- A student who attends less than 80% of the classes/activities and has not submitted appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain their absence may be awarded a final grade of UF (Unsatisfactory Fail).

- A student who has submitted the appropriate documentation but attends less than 66% of the classes/activities will be asked by the Course Authority to apply to discontinue the course without failure rather than be awarded a final grade of UF. The final decision as to whether a student can be withdrawn without fail is made by Student Administration and Records.

Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the Student Misconduct Policy.
10. Class Clash

Class Clashes are not approved for this subject. The intensive mode in which this course is run does not allow for students to catch up with work.

11. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism.

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However, more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student’s work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in an Honours thesis) or even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here: http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf

12. Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students’ feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW’s Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

13. Student Support

The Learning Centre is available for individual consultation and workshops on academic skills. Find out more by visiting the Centre’s website at: http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au
14. **Grievances**

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should, in the first instance, attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or the course convenors.

If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of Humanities and Languages has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of Humanities and Languages. Further information about UNSW grievance procedures is available at: https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints

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15. **Other Information**

**myUNSW**

myUNSW is the online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing and current students and UNSW staff. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links:

https://my.unsw.edu.au
https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html

**OHS**

UNSW's Occupational Health and Safety Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. For all matters relating to Occupational Health, Safety and environment, see https://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/

**Special Consideration**

In cases where illness or other circumstances produce repeated or sustained absence, students should apply for Special Consideration as soon as possible.

The application must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration.

Applications on the grounds of illness must be filled in by a medical practitioner. Further information is available at: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

**Student Equity and Disabilities Unit**

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to or at the commencement of the course, or with the Student Equity Officers (Disability) in the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (9385 4734). Information for students with disabilities is available at: http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au/

Issues that can be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional examination and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.