School of Humanities and Languages

ARTS3368 Advanced Social and Political Philosophy
Semester 2, 2016

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Oedipus and the Sphinx of Thebes (c. 470 B.C.E.)
1. Course Staff and Contact Details

**Course Convenor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Assoc. Prof. James Phillips</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Morven Brown 369</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>9385 2987</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j.phillips@unsw.edu.au">j.phillips@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation Time</td>
<td>Thursdays 1-2 pm (for other times, e-mail to make an appointment)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Course Details

**Units of Credit (UoC)** 6

**Course Description**

This course works through a varied series of texts from throughout the history of Western social and political philosophy. The thinkers examined are Plato, Thomas Aquinas, Immanuel Kant, the Marquis de Sade, Pyotr Kropotkin, Sigmund Freud, Carl Schmitt, Hannah Arendt, Michel Foucault, Giorgio Agamben, Jürgen Habermas and Jean-Luc Nancy. Topics include definitions of the human, arguments for and against monarchy, republicanism, domestic and international peace, anarchy, repression, states of emergency, legitimacy, the relations between philosophy and politics, capital punishment, the welfare state, citizenship and statelessness, sovereignty, multiculturalism and democracy.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Identify primary concerns and key concepts in the history of social and political philosophy
2. Apply critical and conceptual thought to existing and proposed institutions
3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches within social and political philosophy
4. Display skills associated with scholarly inquiry in the discipline of philosophy, such as information literacy, critical analysis, argument and written expression

3. Course Schedule

*To view course timetable, please visit:*

http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Commencing</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Thinker</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 August</td>
<td>Republicanism and the appeal</td>
<td>Sade</td>
<td>“Yet Another Effort, Frenchmen, If You Would Become Republicans” in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 October</td>
<td>Tutorial only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. Course Resources

#### Textbook Details

The primary texts for the course are available as electronic readings through Moodle, either as a pdf or via a link to UNSW library.

#### Suggested Further Readings

**Plato:**


Francisco J. Gonzalez, “The Virtue of Dialogue, Dialogue as Virtue in Plato’s

Aquinas:

Kant:

Sade:
Jörn Ahrens, “Freedom and Sovereignty: A Fatal Relationship Outlined With Jean-Luc


**Kropotkin:**


**Freud:**


**Schmitt:**
Seyla Benhabib, “Carl Schmitt’s Critique of Kant”, *Political Theory* 40, no. 6 (2012): 688-713.

**Arendt:**

**Foucault:**


**Agamben:**


**Habermas:**


Gary Wickham, “Sociology, the Public Sphere, and Modern Government: A Challenge to

**Nancy:**


Students are strongly advised to venture beyond these recommendations. An engagement with the secondary literature will assist students in orienting their own interpretations of the primary texts covered in the course. Each of the thinkers with whom we will be dealing is the subject of a vast secondary literature that continues to grow. It is a feature of an academic essay that a position is adopted in relation to previous commentaries.

**Websites**

Students seeking resources can also obtain assistance from the UNSW Library. One starting point for assistance is:

http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/web/services/services.html

The database “Philosopher’s Index” is one recommended research tool for exploring the scholarly literature on social and political philosophy.

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### 5. Course Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Submitted in Moodle? (Yes/ No)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly text analyses</td>
<td>150 words/week</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>Every tutorial</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>2 September</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
<td>2500 words</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>21 October</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weekly text analyses: 150 words X 12. Percentage of total mark: 15%
Due date: Every Wednesday tutorial, weeks 2-13.
After reading the text set for the week and before the tutorial the following week, write up to 150 words in which you identify problems with the author’s argument or ideas that you wish to extend or apply. The task is not about how well you can summarise another’s work. Be
prepared to take a position (which might be a doubt you have about the meaning or direction of a given passage) and to provide reasons for it. Hand in or e-mail the text analysis to the course convenor, who will write feedback on it and return it the following week. No mark will be given for individual submissions. An overall mark will be assigned at the end of the semester on the basis of the clarity, insights and arguments of your analyses.

**Rationale for Weekly Text Analyses**

This assessment task is intended to help develop a focussed approach to the reading of philosophical texts. It is an opportunity for the course convenor to provide feedback on your progress in advance of the census date.

First Essay: 2,000 words. Percentage of total mark: 40%
Due date: Friday **2 September** (week 6).

Essay topics:
1) Compare and evaluate Aquinas’s defence and Kant’s criticisms of monarchy.
2) Compare and evaluate Sade’s and Kropotkin’s appeals to nature in their accounts of law.
3) Plato and Freud offer different speculative reconstructions of the beginnings of human society. Provide a critical analysis of one or the other or both of these “foundation stories”.

Second Essay: 2,500 words. Percentage of total mark: 45%
Due date: Friday **21 October** (week 12).

Essay topics:
1) Discuss and evaluate Schmitt’s and Arendt’s contrasting appraisals of the question of legitimating power.
2) Foucault and Agamben differ in their understanding of modern biopolitics. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their respective positions.
3) Habermas and Nancy differ in their understanding of political community. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their respective positions.
4) What is and/or should be political philosophy’s relationship to contemporary politics? Draw on up to four of the thinkers covered in the course in your answer.

Students are welcome to devise their own topics but must obtain the course convenor’s approval of the topic prior to submission.

**Rationale for Essays**

Successful completion of the essays will help you to develop a number of the attributes that UNSW expects of its graduates, most notably scholarly methods, critical thinking, independent learning and effective communication skills.

**Assessment Rubric/Essay Standards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HD</th>
<th>DN</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>PS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exposition of issues</strong></td>
<td>Conveys in a coherent manner a clear and profound comprehension of the issues.</td>
<td>Conveys in a coherent manner a clear comprehension of the issues.</td>
<td>Conveys in a coherent manner a comprehension of the issues.</td>
<td>Conveys a comprehension of the issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analysis</strong></td>
<td>Exhibits skills associated with the philosophical analysis of texts, offering</td>
<td>Exhibits skills associated with the philosophical analysis of texts, showing</td>
<td>Exhibits some skills associated with the philosophical analysis of texts.</td>
<td>Exhibits some reflection on the issues covered.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Disciplinary conventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Innovative and insightful interpretations.</td>
<td>Demonstrates detailed attention to and successful execution of a wide range of conventions particular to the academic essay in philosophy, including organisation, content, presentation, referencing, formatting and stylistic choices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence of thought.</td>
<td>Demonstrates consistent use of important conventions particular to the academic essay in philosophy, including organisation, content, presentation, referencing, formatting and stylistic choices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follows expectations appropriate to philosophy and the academic essay for basic organisation, content, and presentation.</td>
<td>Attempts to use a consistent system for basic organisation and presentation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Citations and quotations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uses graceful language that communicates meaning with clarity and fluency and is virtually error-free.</td>
<td>Demonstrates critically reflective use of relevant sources to advance argument.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses straightforward language that generally conveys meaning to readers. The language in the essay has few errors.</td>
<td>Demonstrates reflective use of relevant sources to support position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses language that generally conveys meaning to readers with clarity, although writing may include some errors.</td>
<td>Demonstrates an attempt to use relevant sources to support ideas in the essay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors in usage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Syntax, punctuation and vocabulary

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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors in usage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please Note:** The UNSW Policy on Class Attendance and Absence states the following:

Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes in the courses in which they are enrolled. All applications for exemption from attendance at classes of any kind must be made in writing to the Course Authority.

It is the student’s responsibility to read the course outline before the course commences to ensure that they are familiar with any specific attendance requirements for that course.

If students attend less than 80% of their possible classes they may be refused final assessment.

Students must attend 80% of lectures (10 out of 12 lectures). Students must attend 80% of tutorials (10 out of 12 tutorials).

The UNSW Policy on Class Attendance and Absence can be viewed at: [https://student.unsw.edu.au/attendance](https://student.unsw.edu.au/attendance)
The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences guidelines on attendance can be viewed at:
https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

**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:

**Submission of Assessment Tasks**

Assignments must be submitted electronically through Moodle (http://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au). You must use your zID login to submit your assignments in Moodle.

Refer to the section “Course Assessment” for details of assessment tasks that are to be submitted via Moodle.

** Please note the deadline to submit an assignment electronically is 4:00 pm on the due date of the assignment.

When you submit your assignment electronically, you agree that:

I have followed the Student Code of Conduct. I certify that I have read and understand the University requirements in respect of student academic misconduct outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and the Student Misconduct Procedures. I declare that this assessment item is my own work, except where acknowledged, and has not been submitted for academic credit previously in whole or in part.

I acknowledge that the assessor of this item may, for assessment purposes:

- provide a copy to another staff member of the University
- communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (such as Turnitin) which may retain a copy of the assessment item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking.

You are required to put your name (as it appears in University records) and UNSW Student ID on every page of your assignments.

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Moodle/Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalsupport@unsw.edu.au. Support hours are 8:00 am – 10:00 pm on weekdays and 9:00 am – 5:00 pm 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 its system status on Twitter.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: [https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle](https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle)

### Late Submission of Assignments

Students are responsible for the submission of assessment tasks by the required dates and times. Depending on the extent of delay in the submission of an assessment task past the due date and time, one of the following late penalties will apply unless special consideration or a blanket extension due to a technical outage is granted. For the purpose of late penalty calculation, a ‘day’ is deemed to be each 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline for submission.

- **Work submitted less than 10 days after the stipulated deadline** is subject to a deduction of 5% of the total awardable mark from the mark that would have been achieved if not for the penalty for every day past the stipulated deadline for submission. That is, a student who submits an assignment with a stipulated deadline of 4:00 pm on 13 May 2016 at 4:10 pm on 14 May 2016 will incur a deduction of 10%.

  **Task with a non-percentage mark**

  If the task is marked out of 25, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 1.25 from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

  **Example:** A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The total possible mark for the essay is 25. The essay receives a mark of 17. The student’s mark is therefore $17 - \left[25 \times (0.05 \times 3)\right] = 13.25$.

  **Task with a percentage mark**

  If the task is marked out of 100%, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 5% from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

  **Example:** A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The essay is marked out of 100%. The essay receives a mark of 68. The student’s mark is therefore $68 - \left[100 \times (0.05 \times \frac{10}{60})\right] = 65.94$

- **Work submitted 10 to 19 days after the stipulated deadline** will be assessed and feedback provided but a mark of zero will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component (hurdle requirement), a student will be deemed to have met that requirement;

- **Work submitted 20 or more days after the stipulated deadline** will not be accepted for assessment and will receive no feedback, mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will receive an Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) grade as a result of unsatisfactory performance in essential component of the course.

### 6. Learning and Teaching Rationale and Strategies

The course is structured around weekly readings, lectures and tutorial discussions. Preparation by reading the set texts is crucial for successful participation in the course. A philosophical text rarely gives up its insights on the first reading: patience and reflection are needed for the encounter with the history of philosophy. Coming to a better understanding of a philosophical problem or position is often a collective exercise: we should be willing to run with one another’s ideas, put them to the test, clarify one another’s misgivings, acknowledge
the force of one another's criticisms, etc. As the fame of a philosophical text by no means converts into a transparent intelligibility for the culture in which it is famous, we must learn to suspend our preconceptions and prejudices in our efforts to understand a work from the past. Debating the sense of a work with other readers is a valuable means to testing the limitations and advantages of our different points of view. By learning to be critical of ourselves we learn also how to be critical of the various traditions in which we find ourselves.

Lectures are held weeks 1-12.
Wednesday 1-3 pm, Old Main Building 151.

Tutorials begin in week 2 and run to week 13.
Wednesday 3-4 pm, Old Main Building 151.

Students are advised to read the set texts for the week before coming to class, including week 1.
Tutorials will be devoted to the set readings covered in the lectures of the preceding week.

7. 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.

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

A student who wishes to seek extension for submission of assessment tasks that are not held within class contact hours for courses offered by the School of Humanities and Languages must apply for Special Consideration via myUNSW.

The Arts and Social Sciences Extension Guidelines state the following:

- A request for an extension should be submitted before the due time/date for the assessment task.
- The Course Authority should respond to the request within two working days of the request.
- If a student is granted an extension, failure to comply will result in a penalty. The penalty will be invoked one minute past the approved extension time. See section “Late Submission of Assignments” for penalties of late submission.

8. Attendance

The UNSW Policy on Class Attendance and Absence can be viewed at: https://student.unsw.edu.au/attendance

From time to time, the Course Authority may vary the attendance requirements of a course. It is the students’ responsibility to ensure that they are familiar with the specific attendance requirements stipulated in the course outline for each course in which they are enrolled.

8.1 Attendance
Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes in the courses in which they are enrolled. Students who seek to be excused for absence must apply to the Course Authority in writing. In such situations, the following rules apply.

In the case of illness or of absence for some other unavoidable cause students may be excused for non-attendance at classes for a period of not more than one month (i.e., 33%) or, on the recommendation of the Dean of the appropriate faculty, for a longer period.

8.2 Absence from classes

A student who attends less than 80% of the classes within a course may be refused final assessment.

Explanations of absences from classes or requests for permission to be absent from forthcoming classes should be addressed to the Course Authority in writing and, where applicable, should be accompanied by appropriate documentation (e.g. medical certificate). After submitting appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain his/her absence, a student may be required to undertake supplementary class(s) or task(s) as prescribed by the Course Authority. If examinations or other forms of assessment have been missed, then the student should apply for Special Consideration.

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

9. Class Clash

Students who are enrolled in an Arts and Social Sciences program (single or dual) and have an unavoidable timetable clash can apply for permissible timetable clash by completing an online application form. Students must meet the rules and conditions in order to apply for permissible clash. The rules and conditions can be accessed online in full at: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/media/FASSFile/Permissible_Clash_Rules.pdf

For students who are enrolled in a non-Arts and Social Sciences program, they must seek advice from their home faculty on permissible clash approval.

10. 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) even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here:

11. 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.

12. 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

13. Grievances

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who believe 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/guide

14. 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

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 http://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/guide

**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: https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability

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.