



UNSW
AUSTRALIA

Arts & Social
Sciences

School of Humanities and Languages

ARTS1360: Philosophy, Morality, Society Semester 2, 2014

Lecture times:

Mondays, 1-2 Clancy Auditorium

Tuesdays 9-10 Mathews Theatre A

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1. Course Staff and Contact Details			
Course Convenor and Lecturer			
Name	Melissa Merritt	Room	Morven Brown 341
Phone	9385 2764*	Email	m.merritt@unsw.edu.au
Consultation Time	Fridays 12:30-2:00 <i>*the best way to reach Dr. Merritt is by email</i>		
Course Convenor and Lecturer			
Name	Simon Lumsden	Room	Morven Brown 335
Phone	9385 2369*	Email	s.lumsden@unsw.edu.au
Consultation Time	Wednesdays 2-3 <i>*the best way to reach Dr. Lumsden is by email</i>		
Tutors			
Name	Max Rabie	Room	Morven Brown 353
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Name		Room	
Phone		Email	
Name		Room	
Phone		Email	

2. Course Details	
Units of Credit (UoC)	6
Course Description	This course provides an introduction to some of the key figures and topics in moral, social, and political philosophy. Topics covered in moral philosophy include questions such as the nature of morality, moral judgment, moral virtue, values and ethical decision making. Topics covered in social and political philosophy include the character of human freedom, rights and responsibilities, and notions of justice. The course may also focus on a number of contemporary ethical issues to explore how morality and moral notions are articulated in today's society.
Course Aims	<p>Within the context of philosophical discussions in the area of moral, social, and political philosophy, the course aims to provide an introduction to these fundamental aspects of philosophy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modes of thinking and reasoning in philosophy • methods of philosophical analysis • reading philosophical texts • a selection of core questions in philosophy, focusing on specific philosophical issues and traditions. 2. The course will also examine aspects of how ethics intersects with other areas of philosophy, such as metaphysics and epistemology — particularly through examination of the notions of human freedom and rational agency. 3.
Student Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness of a number of themes and debates in the area of moral, social, and political philosophy. 2. Experience with reflective engagement of central topics in

		moral, social, and political philosophy, with attention both to historical context as well as to philosophical argument surrounding these issues.
	3.	Experience in analysing philosophical arguments and producing one's own philosophical arguments.
	4.	Developing skills of critical analysis and philosophical reflection.
Graduate Attributes	1.	Ability to evaluate and critically analyse beliefs, ideas and information using a range of techniques of philosophical reasoning
	2.	Ability to present coherent and persuasive arguments
	3.	Ability to read and interpret texts sensitively and carefully, especially appreciating the importance of intellectual tradition
	4.	Appreciation of the importance of reasoned enquiry and an ability to apply tools of philosophical analysis to a range of issues including those in contemporary debates
	5.	Appreciation of, and respect for, diversity
	6.	Respect for ethical practice and social responsibility
	7.	Skills of effective communication

3. Learning and Teaching Rationale

Through close reading of core philosophical texts, writing exercises, and small group discussions, the course aims to initiate philosophical and general skills of reading, analysing, criticising, discussing, and writing.

We expect you to participate in this course, and will assess you accordingly. You are expected:

- (1) attend lectures and tutorials
- (2) engage with others in tutorial and online discussions
- (3) complete the required reading in preparation for tutorials
- (4) to complete all tests and writing assignments on time

4. Teaching Strategies

Course material is presented in lecture. Emphasis is on acquiring skills of close reading and interpretation, as well as learning to analyse and construct philosophical arguments. Tutorial provides opportunity to practice these skills in a smaller group setting.

5. Course Assessment

Assessment Task	Length	Weight	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Graduate Attributes Assessed	Due Date
Critical Analysis	700-800 words	30%	2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4, 7	22 August
Quizzes on Moodle (2)	n/a [multiple choice]	(10% each) 20%	1	3	2 September and 21 October
Essay	1500 words	40%	2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4, 7	31 October
Tutorial workbook	Write two discussion questions for tutorial per week.	10%	1, 2, 4	1, 4, 5, 6, 7	Weekly, in tutorial.

Please Note: In addition to fulfilling the above assessment requirements, students are expected to attend at least 80% of their lectures and tutorials in order to pass the course.

Formal Examination

There is no formal final examination at the end of this course.

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://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/assessment/GuideToUNSWGrades.html>

Submission of Assessment Tasks

The Critical Analysis and Essay assignments will be submitted via Turnitin on the Moodle page for this course. Assignments are due by 4pm on the due date.

Two quizzes will be made available on Moodle during lecture period on 2 September and 21 October; you will be required to complete your quiz during that time.

The tutorial workbook will consist of discussion questions that you submit to your instructor at the start of tutorial; he or she will keep a record of who has completed these, and will provide a final mark for this assignment based not only on the complying with this requirement, but also based on the thoughtfulness of the discussion questions asked.

Late Submission of Assignments

Late assignments will attract a penalty. Of the total mark, 3% will be deducted each day for the first week, with Saturday and Sunday counting as two days, and 10% each week thereafter.

The penalty may not apply where students are able to provide documentary evidence of illness or serious misadventure. Time pressure resulting from undertaking assignments for other courses does not constitute an acceptable excuse for lateness.

6. Attendance/Class Clash

Attendance

Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes in the courses in which they are enrolled. Explanations of absences from classes or requests for permission to be absent from classes should be discussed with the teacher and where applicable accompanied by a medical certificate. If students attend less than 80% of their possible classes they may be refused final assessment.

Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the student misconduct policy.

Class Clash

A student who is approved a permissible clash must fulfil the following requirements:

- a. The student must provide the Course Convenor with copies of lecture notes from those lectures missed on a regular basis as agreed by the Course Convenor and the student.
- b. If a student does attend a lecture for which they had secured a permitted clash they will still submit lecture notes as evidence of attendance.

- c. **Failure to meet these requirements is regarded as unsatisfactory performance in the course and a failure to meet the Faculty's course attendance requirement. Accordingly, Course Convenors will fail students who do not meet this performance/attendance requirement.**
- d. Students must attend the clashed lecture on a specific date if that lecture contains an assessment task for the course such as a quiz or test. Inability to meet this requirement would be grounds for a Course Convenor refusing the application. If the student misses the said lecture there is no obligation on the Course Convenor to schedule a make-up quiz or test and the student can receive zero for the assessment task. It should be noted that in many courses a failure to complete an assessment task can be grounds for course failure.

7. 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: <http://www.lc.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>

8. Course Schedule

To view course timetable, please visit: <http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/>

WEEK <i>and lecturer</i>	Lecture 1: lecture topic and required reading	Lecture 2: lecture topic and required reading	Assessment tasks (and other remarks)
1 Merritt	28 July WHAT IS ETHICS? [Course introduction: no reading]	29 July MORAL SCEPTICISM Plato: <i>Republic</i> , Book 1	N.B.: there are no tutorials in Week 1.
2 Merritt	4 August MORAL NON- CONSEQUENTIALISM (GLAUCON'S CHALLENGE) Plato: <i>Republic</i> , Book 2	5 August MORAL CONSEQUENTIALISM Hume, <i>Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals</i> §§I and V (In course reader.)	Tutorials commence this week.
3 Merritt	11 August HAPPINESS, FREEDOM, AND THE GOOD LIFE Plato: <i>Republic</i> , Book 4	12 August CONCEPTIONS OF FREEDOM Frankfurt: "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person" (In course reader.)	Instructions for critical analysis (due in Week 4) distributed in tutorial.
4 Merritt	18 August MORAL EDUCATION Plato: <i>Republic</i> , read Book 5 from 473c through Book 7 up through 520a	19 August RESPONDING TO GLAUCON'S CHALLENGE Plato: <i>Republic</i> , Book 9	Critical analysis due Friday, 22 August (700-800 words). Submission via Turnitin link on Moodle.
5 Merritt MODERN MORAL THEORY	25 August KANTIAN DEONTOLOGY Kant: <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> §I	26 August RATIONALIST UTILITARIANISM Peter Singer: "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"	

	(In course reader.)	(In course reader.)	
6 Merritt	1 September THE LIMITS OF MORAL RESPONSIBILITY Williams: "Moral Luck" (In course reader.)	2 September Quiz 1 on Moodle. This quiz can only be taken during lecture period via Moodle. See course convenors with any questions.	Quiz on Moodle!
7 Lumsden THREE VERSIONS OF THE SOCIAL CONTRACT (through Week 9)	8 September THE STATE OF NATURE AND NATURAL LAW Hobbes: <i>Leviathan</i> chapters 13, 14, 15 (In course reader.)	9 September THE STATE OF NATURE AND NATURAL LAW Hobbes: <i>Leviathan</i> chapters 17, 18, 21 (In course reader.)	
8 Lumsden	15 September PROPERTY, FREEDOM, AND THE STATE OF NATURE Locke: "Of Property" (In course reader.)	16 September FREEDOM AND CIVIL SOCIETY Rousseau: <i>Second Discourse on</i> Preface and excerpts from Parts 1 and 2 (In course reader.)	
9 Lumsden	22 September FREEDOM AND CIVIL SOCIETY Rousseau: <i>The Social Contract</i> , Book 1, Chps 6-8; Book 2, Chps 1-5. (In course reader.)	23 September FREEDOM AND CIVIL SOCIETY Taylor: "Civil Society" (In course reader.)	
BREAK WEEK			
10	6 October	7 October ALIENATION AND	Final essay topics distributed.

Lumsden	LABOUR DAY UNSW CLOSED	CAPITALISM Marx: “Estranged Labour” (In course reader.)	
11 Lumsden	13 October ALIENATION AND CAPITALISM Marx: “Estranged Labour” (In course reader.)	14 October FREEDOM AND SOCIALITY Arendt: ‘Rise of the social’ Heidegger: <i>Being and Time</i> (In course reader.)	
12 (Lumsden)	20 October FREEDOM AND SOCIALITY Arendt: ‘Rise of the social’ Heidegger: <i>Being and Time</i> (In course reader.)	21 October Quiz 2 on Moodle. This quiz can only be taken during lecture period via Moodle. See course convenors with any questions.	Quiz on Moodle!
13	<i>No lectures; tutorials only.</i>		Final essays due Friday 31 October. Submission via Turnitin link on Moodle.

9. Course Resources

Textbook Details

- Plato, Republic.** Translated by G.M.A. Grube, revised by C.D.C. Reeve. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1992.
This book is available for purchase at the UNSW bookstore; you are required to use this translation of the *Republic*.
- Course reader available for purchase at UNSW bookstore.**

Journals

Additional Readings

Websites

10. 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.

11. 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>

12. 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://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/Complaints.html>

13. 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

<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://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html>

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.