ARTS1361 Philosophy, Knowledge, Reality
Session 1 2015

Course Outline

Convenor: Michaelis Michael
Lecturers: M.Michael and Markos Valaris

Philosophy@UNSW

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND LANGUAGES
ARTS1361 Philosophy, Knowledge, Reality

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COURSE INFORMATION
This is a one-session course in Philosophy carrying six units of credit. There are normally two lectures and one tutorial each week.

**Lectures begin in Week 1. Tutorials begin in Week 3.**

**Lectures:**
- Monday 16:00 Ritchie Theatre
- Wednesday 13:00 Ritchie Theatre

There are normally *two lectures* each week starting in Week 1
You must attend *one tutorial* each week starting in Week 3

The course is an introduction both to some enduring, and to some contemporary, philosophical questions, puzzles, and ideas about knowledge and reality.

Epistemology is the philosophy of *knowledge.*
Metaphysics is the philosophy of *reality.*

Philosophers to be read include Plato, Descartes and Russell, along with many contemporary philosophers. Topics to be discussed may include:

1. **Metaphysics:** personal identity, free will, god and evil, foreknowledge and fatalism, universals and essences, meaning of life, time-travel, appearance and reality.
2. **Epistemology:** truth, evidence, knowledge, empiricism and idealism, rationalism, scepticism, knowledge of other minds, knowledge of the external world.

By the end of the course you will have encountered many of the central concepts, problems and arguments in the above topic areas. You will have had experience in formulating, analysing, and responding critically to these central philosophical ideas.

**Difficulties**
In case of any difficulties with study due to disability or other factors impacting on your ability to successfully complete work or concentrate on your studies, do contact the course co-ordinator. There are also counsellors available in the Student Centre you are able to see free of charge, if you are an enrolled student.

**Course Co-ordinator**
**Dr Michaelis Michael**
Room 325, Morven Brown Building
Ph 9385 2183
email: m.michael@unsw.edu.au
Consultation time: Monday 9.30 – 10.30

**Lecturers**
**Dr Michaelis Michael** (as above)
and
**Dr Markos Valaris**
Room 339
Ph 9385 2760
email: m.valaris@unsw.edu.au
Consultation time: Monday 2.30- 3.30

**Textbook**
In the lecture outline this is called ‘M’
A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality (Hackett Philosophical Dialogues) by John Perry

Reading
You are expected to do the assigned reading in preparation for the lectures and for the tutorials. Each week’s tutorial will discuss issues and questions raised in the reading, and in the lecture(s), for the previous week.

Assessment
Assessment for the course has three components. There is a short assignment, an essay and two online quizzes.

The penalty system for late written assignments is non-negotiable. The only exception is if an extension has been requested, and given, by the due date. Extensions will not be given unless there is a verifiable case of genuine hardship. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 3% per whole or part day, after the due date (including weekends). Assessments which are submitted late will not be commented on.

Dr. Michaelis Michael is the course co-ordinator (in room 325, Morven Brown Building) and the person to whom you should speak if you are requesting an extension; please e-mail (m.michael@unsw.edu.au) or phone (9385 2183) for an appointment.

Here is some more detailed information on these components of the assessment.

(1) The short assignment will be a short written piece no more than 700 words in length, due on 2nd April, by 4 p.m. (the Thursday of Week 5). It will be worth 20% of the marks available for the course.

(2) The essay will be no more than 1500 words long. It will be due on Friday 5th June. It will be worth 40% of the available marks.

(3) There are two online assessments each worth 20%. These must be completed on Moodle within the short period made available. The dates for these are Wednesday 29th April 1pm to 2pm and Wednesday 3rd June 1pm to 2pm.

Each element of the assessment is geared towards a particular goal:
The short assignment is focused on your ability to identify and analyse an argument in tightly focused manner.
The longer essay is aimed at your ability to develop your own arguments, critically engaging with a body of literature and showing your own ideas. The online assessment is geared towards showing that you have paid attention to the lectures and readings as a whole and not just focussed on your essay topic.

Assignment Submission
- All assignment submissions are due at 4pm on the due date.
- All assignment copies must be submitted as an electronic copy through Moodle.
- No hard copies will be accepted. Electronic submission only through Moodle.

Attendance
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/

There are no tutorials in Weeks 8 and 13.
Moodle Site
You will have access to the course Moodle site. There will be much useful material on t

his site, including pdf versions of the lecture slides, additional readings, news, etc.

Useful Online Resources
The Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy
http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html

The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
http://www.iep.utm.edu/

Do not use Wikipedia as a resource; it is really not to be trusted any more than random remarks made by somebody you run into in a pub or coffee shop.

Remember the key with all these resources is to use them with a grain of salt.

We are interested in your thinking.

We are interested in the way you present reasons for positions and analyse intelligently the positions others have given for their positions.

Simply repeating what others have said, including what the lecturer has said, does not show that intelligent engagement with the material.
# Lecture Schedule

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

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<th>Lecture</th>
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<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
<td>Introductory (philosophy in general)</td>
<td><strong>MM</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>4th March</td>
<td>Existence</td>
<td><strong>MM</strong> Quine “On What There Is” <strong>M 2</strong></td>
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| Week 2  | 9th March| Properties, Essences & Possible Worlds             | **MM** Russell, Universals **M4**; Armstrong, “Universals as Attributes” **M 5**  
|         |         |                                                   | Lewis, “Modal Realism at Work” **M 52**                               |
|         | 11th March| The Metaphysics of Colour                          | **MM** Galileo “Two Kinds of Properties”*                               |
| Week 3  | 16th March| Knowledge and Skepticism                           | **MV** Descartes: *First Meditation [From Early Modern Texts - full pdf CLICK HERE]* |
|         | 18th March| The Cogito                                        | **MV** Descartes: *Second Meditation*                                   |
| Week 4  | 23rd March| Clear and Distinct Perceptions: Regaining the World | **MV** Descartes: *Third Meditation*                                  |
|         | 25th March| Error and Evil                                    | **MV** Descartes: *Fourth Meditation*                                 |
| Week 5  | 30th March| Innate Ideas and the Ontological Argument        | **MV** Descartes: *Fifth Meditation*                                   |
|         | 1st April| Knowledge and Understanding                       | **MV** Descartes: *Sixth Meditation [CLICK HERE]*                       |
|         |         |                                                   | If you are trying to access the reading from home, you will first need to log into the library's network, and then search for the book. |

**Midsemester Break** 3-12 April
| Week 6  | 13th April | Personal Identity, Consciousness and the Soul | MV | Descartes: *Sixth Meditation*  
Princess Elisabeth's First Letter to Descartes (6.v.1643) ([CLICK HERE](#))  
Chalmers, "The Problem of Conscious Experience" M41 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15th April | Personal Identity | MV | Perry: *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality I*  
Swinburne: “Personal Identity: the Dualist Theory” (Optional) M39 |
| Week 7 | 20th April | Personal Identity | MV | Perry: *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality II*  
Shoemaker: “Personal Identity: A Materialist Account” (Optional) M36 |
| 22nd April | Personal Identity | MV | Perry: *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality III*  
Optional: [Culasaccaka Sutta](#) (the Shorter Discourse to Saccaka)  
Optional: [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry](#) |
Velleman, “The Self as Narrator” |
| 29th April | No lecture | | | **Online Assessment – Moodle Quiz** |
| Week 9 | 4th May | Causation and Determinism | MM | Hume, “Constant Conjunction” M30  
Anscombe “Causation and Determination” M34  
| 6th May | Free will | MM | Holbach, “We Are Never Free” M43  
Hobart, “Free Will as Involving Determination” M44 |
<p>| Week 10 | 11th May | Free Will Personhood and determinism | MM | Frankfurt, “Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person” M51 |
| 13th May | Time Travel | MM | Lewis, “The Paradoxes of Time Travel” M23 |</p>
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<th>Reader</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>25th May Relativism and Constructivism</td>
<td>MM</td>
<td>Blackburn <em>Inaugural lecture “Relatively Speaking”</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>27th May</td>
<td>The Meaning of Life</td>
<td>MM</td>
<td>Michael and Caldwell “Consolations of Optimism”*</td>
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<td>Ramsey “Epilogue”*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13 No tutorials This Week</td>
<td>1st June 3rd June</td>
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<td><strong>Online Assessment – Moodle Quiz</strong></td>
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Inquiries

If you have inquiries about the reading, your assignments or the course in the first instance contact your tutor. The lecturers in this course are available for consultation during listed consultation times, and at other times by appointment (contact details above). Feel free to contact the subject co-ordinator Michaelis Michael (ph. 9385 2183, email: m.michael@unsw.edu.au) if you have an issue you wish to discuss.

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

All requests for extension must be made to Michaelis Michael. See https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

If you are contacting your tutor or the lecturer by E-mail please provide your name and a telephone number as well as your student number. Use your university email address to contact staff. We cannot believe that an email from a random email address claiming to be from you actually is from you.

ESSAYS: INSTRUCTIONS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Read the questions closely.

Criteria for Essay Assessment

Your essays will be marked according to usual written assessment criteria such as comprehension of concepts, coherence of argument, and the presentation of the argument. Specific considerations include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Content: understanding of concepts referred to; ability to synthesize theoretical and applied problems; coherence of argument; grasp of key problems that arise in the issue addressed; ability to summarize and present the argument within the word limit, balance between summary and comment
- Style: Coherence of structure, clarity of ideas and expression, grammar, concision, and overall cohesion.

Essay writing hints

The skills that are of central importance in philosophy include:

- the ability to read philosophical texts carefully and thoroughly,
- the ability to fairly reconstruct a philosopher’s position and argument in regard to a particular issue (this is “exposition” and involves selecting and prioritizing points and hence interpretation on your part)
- the ability to express your own thoughts and reason and argue about the material that you are addressing (this is your argument or considered judgment).
- Remember that an essay is an attempt, on your part, to explain something to someone you should think of as an intelligent ignoramus. They know nothing about the topic and it is your job to explain something to them. You are not writing for your tutor or lecturer. Imagine you are writing for one of your intelligent but ignorant friends, or members of your family. Take time to think through what you need to explain to get to the stuff you want to get to. Don’t use overly technical terms unless it is necessary, and then make sure you use it correctly and that you explain its use.

Your ability to provide exposition and argument are central criteria used in assessing your essays.

1. Your essay will address a problem or issue arising from the themes of the course. Say clearly what the problem or issue is in your introduction and indicate how you will address it. The rest of the essay should (a) elaborate the problem or issue in detail with reference to the material selected from the course and (b) develop an argument about the problem or issue. You are unlikely to resolve an issue conclusively, but your essay should
demonstrate an understanding of the way the issue is handled in the material that you are discussing and work towards relevant conclusions.

2. Remember that the reader cannot read your thoughts unless you commit them to paper. So you need to include all necessary information for the reader to understand what you’re discussing and to follow your argument. Imagine your reader to be ‘intelligent but ignorant’, that is, they may not know the material that you are discussing, but will be intelligent enough to understand it from your essay. A good test is to get someone else to read over a draft, to check that it is clear, comprehensive and concise.

4. Make sure that you use double-spacing and leave a generous margin to allow for marker’s comments. Check your spelling and grammar.

5. It is essential to acknowledge your sources. Use quotation marks for any wording that is not your own and if you paraphrase someone else’s material (including material from lectures), acknowledge your source. Use whatever referencing system you are used to, but be consistent. The test to see if your referencing system is adequate is: Will a reader be able to find this passage directly using the information in your reference? If not, then the system is inadequate.

There are excellent resources available on the web to help with writing essays. One of the best is Jim Pryor’s guide to writing philosophy essays: [http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html](http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html)

Course aims

- Provide a broad introduction to some of the most central concepts and issues in metaphysics and epistemology, 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.
- Provide an introductory level avenue to developing the skills and reasoning ability associated with the discipline of philosophy, as a precursor to advanced courses in the discipline.

- 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:

- Formulate, analyse, and respond critically to the problems, arguments, and positions covered in the course.
- Display skills associated with scholarly inquiry in the discipline of philosophy, particularly information literacy and critical analysis skills
- Make progress toward developing the following graduate attributes:

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.

These attributes have been identified by UNSW as the characteristics it seeks to instil 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 are a number of ways in which this course contributes to graduate attributes.

**Teaching Strategies**

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. To do this, the assessment takes a number of different forms, including oral and written work.

**Students’ rights and responsibilities**
The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences statement of students' rights and responsibilities should be read. It is to be found at the UNSW School of Humanities and Languages website.

[http://hal.arts.unsw.edu.au](http://hal.arts.unsw.edu.au)

**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](https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades)

**Submission of Assessment Tasks**

**Via Moodle**

**Late Submission of Assignments**

The Arts and Social Sciences late submissions guidelines state the following:

- An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).
- The late penalty is the **loss of 3%** of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late.
- Work submitted **14 days after** the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.
- Work submitted **21 days after** the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.
The Late Submissions Guidelines can be found in full at: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/Protocols-Guidelines/

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.

**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.

The Arts and Social Sciences Extension Guidelines state the following:

- The Course Authority can only approve an extension up to five days. A student requesting an extension greater than five days should complete an application for Special Consideration.
- The Course Authority advises their decision through the online extension tool.
- 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.

**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.

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_Policy.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.

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/](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](http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf)

### 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.

### 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](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au)

### 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](https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints)

### 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) [https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html](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.