PHIL 1020 - Introduction to Philosophy A
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: John Wright
Room: MC 113
Ph: 49 215182
Fax: 49 216933
Email: John.Wright@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Tuesdays, 3.00pm to 5.00pm.
Semester: Semester 1 - 2006
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lecture Tutorial

Course Overview
Brief Course Description
Introduces students to areas, themes or problems in philosophy in a manner designed to provide them with a basic grasp of the nature and scope of the discipline.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term
Tutorial for 2 Hours per Fortnight for 12 Weeks
Tutorials begin week 2
Lecture begins week 1

Learning Materials/Texts
Text: The Story of Philosophy (Social Sciences Press, 2003)

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1 Semester 1 2006

CTS Download Date 6/02/2006
Course Objectives
(1) Impart to students familiarity with, and knowledge of, the main issues addressed and approaches taken by philosophers.
(2) Impart to students, critical skills to deal with these issues and employ these approaches in their assessment of their own culture and societal life, and in thinking about their own personal lives.
(3) Develop high level written and oral skills in analysing and presenting philosophical issues.
(4) Develop a capacity to appreciate the philosophical positions involved in how people approach ways of living and evaluating life situations.

Course Content
Specific content will vary from year to year, and typically covers two major philosophical areas, themes or problems. The course may focus on one particular philosophy, for instance Plato, or it may survey several under a selected theme, such as freedom and responsibility, or under a selected problem, such as the nature of mind. These will be chosen so as to complement those for PHIL1030 so that the two courses together provide a balanced coverage of the core areas of the discipline: metaphysics, epistemology, rationality, ethics/value.

Assessment Items

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<tr>
<th>Assessment Items</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Essay 1,000 words, 30%. The essay will require the student to explain the central concepts of the philosophies studied. Some library research will be required, but it is expected that assigned readings will form the bulk of the material to be read.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Tutorial presentation and assignment, 500 words, 10%, assignment due one week after presentation. The tutorial assignment designed to give students initial written feedback on their capacity for formal analysis and argument.</td>
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<td>Examination: Formal</td>
<td>2 hour written examination, 50%, end of semester.</td>
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<td>Group/tutorial participation and contribution</td>
<td>Tutorial participation, 10% ongoing. Tutorials will assess how well students are coming to grips with the basic issues and concepts of the course. Tutorial participation provides continual assessment and feedback on individual student ability to properly engage the subject matter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>For particular dates and times refer to handouts to be made available.</td>
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Assumed Knowledge
There is no assumed knowledge.

Callaghan Campus Timetable
PHIL 1020
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY A.
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 – 2006
Lecture Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 [GP2-1] Wks1-13 only
and Tutorial

Monday 15:00 - 17:00  [MCLG42]

Group 1-Wks 2,4,6,8,10,12 or
Group 2 - Wks 3,5,7,9,11,13

or

Thursday 17:00 - 19:00  [W218]

Weeks 2,4,6,8,10 & 12 only

or

Thursday 9:00 - 11:00  [GP3-24]

Group 1-Wks 2,4,6,8,10,12 or
Group 2 - Wks 3,5,7,9,11,13

Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking.
Written Assessment Items
Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:
1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment: or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer on the prescribed form.

Please go to the Policy and the on-line form for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you, at:


Changing your Enrolment
The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2006
For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2006
For Trimester 1 courses: 18 February 2006
For Trimester 2 courses: 10 June 2006

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester and prior to the commencement of the formal exam period. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with the School Office.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/change-enrol.html
Contact Details
Faculty Student Service Offices

The Faculty of Education and Arts
Room: GP1-22 (General Purpose Building)
Phone: 0249 215 314

The Dean of Students
Dr Jennifer Archer
Phone: 492 15806
Fax: 492 17151
resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:

Alteration of this Course Outline
No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards

Students with a Disability or Chronic Illness
The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.
If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator. Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 49 21 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au
As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or
Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at:

www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

**Tutorial Attendance**
Students get 2 marks for every tutorial they attend, up to five tutorials. A record will be kept of student’s attendance at tutorials. Students may check with their tutor how many tutorials they have attended.

**Online Tutorial Registration:**
Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system:


Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

**Studentmail and Blackboard:** [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

**Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details**

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Students experiencing difficulties getting their work in on time should speak to their tutor. The tutor may give the student an extension on the date of submission of their work.

**Hard copy submission:**

- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet: [www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/assess_coversheet.pdf](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/assess_coversheet.pdf)
- **Assignments are to be deposited in the relevant discipline assignment box:**
  - Callaghan students: School of Humanities and Social Science Office, Level 1, McMullin Building, MC127
  - Ourimbah students: Room H01.43
- **Do not fax or email assignments:** Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse. Assignments mailed to Schools are accepted from the date posted.
Keep a copy of all assignments: All assignments are date-stamped and recorded upon receipt, however it is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Keep updated back-ups in hard copy and on disk.

Online copy submission to Turnitin
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:

Assignments:
One tutorial paper (500 words). Different students tutorial papers will be due at different times throughout the semester.
One essay (1000 words). Due mid-semester. Exact date of submission to be announced in first weeks of semester.

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing.

Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

Special Consideration/Extension of Time Applications
Students wishing to apply for Special Consideration or Extension of Time should obtain the appropriate form from the Student HUBS.

No Assignment Re-submission
Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

Remarks
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at: www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/adm_prog/procedures_appeals_finalresult.pdf

Return of Assignments
Where possible, assignments will be marked within 3 weeks and returned to students in class. At the end of semester, students can collect assignments from the Student HUBS during office hours.

Preferred Referencing Style
In this course, any clear system of in-text referencing is acceptable. Students must also supply, at the end of the essay, a list of references used in writing their essay.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors’ last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from: Infoskills: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html
Student Representatives
We are very interested in your feedback and suggestions for improvement. Student Representatives are the channel of communication between students and the School Board. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on the School website.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html

Assessment details.
Assessment for this course will be made up of the following components:

- Tutorial paper: 500 words. Worth 10%
- Tutorial attendance and participation. Worth 10%
- Essay (1,000 words) Worth 30%
- Examination (end of semester, 2 hours) Worth 50%

Course Content
This course is composed of two segments. Segment A is “Introduction to the History of Philosophy” Segment B is “Introduction to Moral Theory” The lecturer for the “History of Philosophy” segment is Dr John Wright, and the lectures for this segment will be from 10.00am to 11.00am on Tuesday mornings. The lecturer for the “Moral Theory” segment will be Dr Joe Mintoff, and the lectures for this segment will from 11.00am to 12.00 noon on Tuesdays. The schedule of lectures will be as follows:

History of Philosophy
Lectures


Week Three: Aristotle and the “unmoved mover”. The beginnings of Medieval Philosophy Aquinas and the first cause argument.

Week Four: The Argument from Contingency.

Week Five: The ontological argument.

Week Six: The Arguments from Design.
Week Seven: The Problem of Evil.

Week Eight: Empiricism and Rationalism.

Week Nine: Descartes.

Week Ten: Locke.


Week Twelve: Criticism of dualism. The identity theory.

Week Thirteen: Behaviourism and functionalism. The Problem of Consciousness.

Moral Theory Lectures

PART 1: The Ethical Problem.

Week one: Ethics, What?

Week two: Ethics, Why?

PART 2: The Good

Week three: Hedonism

Week four: Self-Actualisation

Week five: Passionate Love

Week six: Desire-Satisfaction

PART 3: Some moral problems

Week seven: Vegetarianism

Week eight: Abortion

Week nine: War

Week ten: Terrorism

PART 4: The Right

Week eleven: Egoism: Does the good life involve right action?

Week twelve: Utilitarian Theories

Week thirteen: Deontological Theories

Week fourteen: No lecture
**Tutorials**

Please note: Tutorials do not meet every week. They only meet every second week. Students should enrol for a tutorial time electronically. Students going to tutorials at the same time will be split up into two groups. One group will meet on even numbered weeks, the other group will meet on odd numbered weeks. Students will be allocated to a tutorial group in lectures in the first week of semester.

**TUTORIAL PROGRAMME**

**Weeks 2 and 3:** Introductory Issues.

**Weeks 4 and 5:** Topics in Moral Theory

**Weeks 6 and 7:** Topics in History of Philosophy

**Weeks 8 and 9:** Topics in Moral Theory.

**Weeks 10 and 11:** Topics in History of Philosophy

**Weeks 12 and 13:** Topics in Moral Theory and History of Philosophy.

Specific topics for the tutorials will be made available in the first tutorial. It is very important that students go to the first tutorial.

**Guideline to marking system.**

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<th>Grade Range</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<td>49% or less</td>
<td>Fail (FF)</td>
<td>An unacceptable effort, including non-completion. The student has not understood the basic principles of the subject matter and/or has been unable to express their understanding in a comprehensible way. Deficient in terms of answering the question, research, referencing and correct presentation (spelling, grammar etc). May include extensive plagiarism.</td>
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<td>50% to 64%</td>
<td>Pass (P)</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a reasonable attempt to answer the question, shows some grasp of the basic principles of the subject matter and a basic knowledge of the required readings, is comprehensible, accurate and adequately referenced.</td>
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<td>65% to 74%</td>
<td>Credit (C)</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question, a capacity to integrate research into the discussion, and a critical appreciation of a range of different theoretical perspectives. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought. The work is coherent and accurate.</td>
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<td>75% to 84%</td>
<td>Distinction (D)</td>
<td>Evidence of substantial additional reading and/or research, and evidence of the ability to generalise from the theoretical content to develop an argument in an informed and original manner. The work is well organised, clearly expressed and shows a capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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<td>85% upwards</td>
<td>High Distinction (HD)</td>
<td>All of the above, plus a thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and/or research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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### Semester Dates

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>February 20</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
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<td>Note: Good Friday Holiday</td>
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<td>Mid-Semester Recess: Friday 14 April - Friday 28 April</td>
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<td>May 29</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>June 5</td>
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