PHIL1020 - Philosophy 1A
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: John Wright
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Consultation hours: tba

Semester: Semester 2 - 2007
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lecture, Tutorial

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 10 Weeks
Tutorials begin week 2
Lecture begins week 1

Learning Materials/Texts

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>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.</th>
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<tbody>
<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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<tr>
<td>Examination: Formal</td>
<td>2 hour written examination, 50%, end of semester.</td>
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<tr>
<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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Assumed Knowledge
There is no assumed knowledge.

Ourimbah Timetable
PHIL1020
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY A.
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 – 2007
Lecture and Tutorial
Friday 10:00 - 12:00 [O_CN2:1.04]
Friday 12:00 - 13:00 [O_CN2:1.12]

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 following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html) for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received in the Student Hub no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

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 2007
For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2007
For Trimester 1 courses: 16 February 2007
For Trimester 2 courses: 8 June 2007

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. 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 staff in the Student Hubs.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html

**Faculty Information**

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**

• Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
• Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**City Precinct**

• City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

**Ourimbah campus**

• Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

**Faculty websites**

**Faculty of Business and Law**


**Faculty of Education and Arts**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

**Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/

**Faculty of Health**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/

**Faculty of Science and Information Technology**
Contact details

Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie
Phone: 02 4921 5000
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

Ourimbah
Phone: 02 4348 4030
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

The Dean of Students
Resolution Precinct
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145
Email: 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

Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate 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 02 4921 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](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability)

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.

**Further Information**

Details about aspects of the course are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

(Additional Information)

Proposed schedule of lectures.


Week Two: Some Pre-Socratics – Protagoras, Parmenides, Zeno, Pythagoras.

Week Three: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle.

Week Four: The beginnings of Medieval Philosophy. Aquinas’ five ways.

Week Five: The Argument from Contingency

Week Six: The Ontological Argument

Week Seven: The Arguments from Design. The theory of evolution.

Week Eight: The Problem of Evil

Week Nine: Empiricism and Rationalism

Week Ten: Descartes

Week Eleven: Locke

Week Twelve: The Mind-body Problem: Dualism

Week Thirteen: The Identity theory, Behaviourism, Functionalism, Consciousness.

Tutorial Topics (N.B. Unless otherwise specified, all page number references are to The Story of Philosophy)

Week one: No tutorial

Week two: Introductory issues

Week Three: Summarise animism. How did the views of the first philosophers differ from animistic views? [pp.1-14]

Week Four: Did Plato make a good case for saying some knowledge was present in the mind at birth? [pp.17-25]

Week Five: What were Aquinas' five ways? Briefly explain Aquinas' indebtedness to Aristotle. [Notes to be placed on blackboard]

Week Six: Why, according to the argument from contingency, does God not need a cause? [pp.49-54]

Week Seven: How did Gaunilo object to Anselm? Do you think Gaunilo was right? [pp.61-64]

Week Eight: Explain Paley’s argument from design. Do you think it is a good argument? [pp.73-74]

Week Nine: How much evil can be explained by free will? [pp.91-95]

Week Ten: Explain empiricism and rationalism. Briefly outline some of the difficulties of empiricism. [pp.105-111]

Week Eleven: What is “the cogito”? Did Descartes succeed in showing it was immune to all possible doubt? [pp.118-122]

Week Twelve: General Tutorial

Week Thirteen: General tutorial.

**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

Students will get 10% for regular attendance at, and participation in, tutorials.

Tutorial paper (500 words), worth 10%

Essay (1,000 words), worth 30%

Examination at end of semester (2hrs), worth 50%

Total: 100%

**Essay topics, and due date for essay, will be announced shortly.**