PHIL1020 - Introduction to Philosophy A
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: John Wright
Room: MC113 (Callaghan)
Ph: 02 49 215182
Fax: 02 49 21 6933
Email: John.Wright@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: tba

Semester: Semester 2 - 2006
Unit Weighting: 10
FOE Code: 091701
Course Level: 1000

Programs
Elective
B Arts
B Arts [CC]

Teaching Distribution
| School of Liberal Arts | 100% |

Teaching Methods
Lecture
Tutorial

Modes of Delivery
Internal Mode

Industrial Experience
No

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 1 hour per week.
Tutorials begin week 2
Lecture begins week 1

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

CTS Download Date: 6 June 2006
Learning Materials/Texts
The Story of Philosophy (Social Sciences Press, Tuggerah, 2003)

Replacing Courses
Nil.

Transitional Arrangements
NA

Course Rationale
A broad general education in humanities includes understanding the most fundamental issues involved in understanding ourselves and living aright. This is the overall task of philosophy. In addition, particular philosophies lie at the centre of understanding the historical development of every society, our own in particular, and are essential for the development of competent citizenship. Understanding the kind of issues encompassed by this course will also often prove critical to Australia’s capacity to function well in the twenty-first century. The course will enhance the student’s understanding of philosophy by exposing them to, and engaging them in, its thinking. As well, their understanding of their own and others’ culture and philosophy will be enhanced.

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
| Essays / Written Assignments | 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. |
| Essays / Written Assignments | 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. |
| Examination: Formal | 2 hour written examination, 50%, end of semester. |
| Group/tutorial participation and contribution | 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. |
| Other: (please specify) | For particular dates and times refer to course guide available from school office. |

Assumed Knowledge
There is no assumed knowledge.
Resources Required

Course Evaluation
The proposed course will be reviewed annually through the use of formal student evaluations of the subject (SES) and of teaching (SET) through the Teaching and Development section.

Course Requisites
Not applicable

Ourimbah Timetable
PHIL1020
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY A.
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 – 2006
Lecture     Friday  10:00 - 12:00 [O_CN2:1.04]
and Tutorial 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 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:

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the 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 lodged no later than 5 working days before the date of the examination.

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 2 courses: 31 August 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 Student Enquiry Centre.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html

**Contact Details**
**Faculty Student Service Offices**

**The Faculty of Education and Arts**
Room: GP1-22 (General Purpose Building)
Phone: 02 4921 5314

**Ourimbah Focus**
Room: AB1.01 (Administration Building)
Phone: 02 4348 4030

**The Dean of Students**
Dr Jennifer Archer
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

**Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)**
Dr Bill Gladstone
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145

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

Studentmail and Blackboard: 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. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

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
✵ Assignments are to be deposited at any Student Focus. Focus are located at:
   o Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
   o Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
   o Ground Floor, University House, City
   o Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah, Room H01.43
Do not fax or email assignments: Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Assignments mailed to Schools are accepted from the date posted.

Keep a copy of all assignments: All assignments are date-stamped upon receipt. However, it is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to 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:

For this subject, students will be required to submit:
* One tutorial paper (about 500 words)
* One essay (about 1,000 words)

[There will also be a 2-hour examination at the end of the year]

The due date for the essay will be announced shortly
Tutorial papers are due two weeks after relevant tutorial session.

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

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 or see the lecturer.

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:


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
Any referencing style is permitted, provided it is clear.


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:

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’s five ways.
Week Five. The Argument from Contingency
Week Six: The Ontological Argument.
Week Seven: 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. (NB 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.

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<tr>
<th>Grading guide</th>
<th>Fail (FF)</th>
<th>Pass (P)</th>
<th>Credit (C)</th>
<th>Distinction (D)</th>
<th>High Distinction (HD)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>49% or less</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>
<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>
<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>
<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>
<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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