Course Overview

PHIL3060 - Topics in Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Philosophy

Course Outline

Semester
Semester 2 - 2009

Unit Weighting
10

Teaching Methods
Lecture

Brief Course Description
Examines a range of topics in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and philosophical anthropology in a number of different philosophical traditions. Examples of topics which may be covered in the course include theories of reality and knowledge ancient and modern scepticism; ethical theories; theories of the person.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts

Course Objectives
(1) Impart to students familiarity with, and knowledge of, the main issues addressed and approaches taken by Western philosophers in different philosophical traditions.
(2) Impart to students critical skills to deal with these issues in their historical forms and to prepare them to employ these approaches in their assessment of the current philosophical discussion of these matters.
(3) Develop high level written and oral skills in understanding and presenting philosophical issues in their historical contexts.
(4) Develop an understanding and appreciation of the ways in which historical context can help generate but not exhaust the ways in which an issue can appear and reappear in the history of philosophy, and of a society.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 2 - 2009

CTS Download Date: 9/7/09
Course Content
This course presents philosophical issues in ancient medieval and modern philosophy, in particular those surrounding the nature of reality, the nature and sources of knowledge, theories of ethics, and the nature of the human person. There will be some variation in emphases from year to year as appropriate to student needs. The main assigned readings will be translations or editions of primary materials supplemented by secondary interpretation. The lectures and discussions in class will focus on interpreting the texts, examining the philosophic issues, discussing how the historical context helps shape the issues, and indicating the contemporary relevance of the matters discussed.

Assessment Items
Essays / Written Assignments Two 2,000 word essays worth 50% each

Assumed Knowledge
At least 10 credit points of PHIL subjects at 1000 level or 40 credit points of any subjects at any level.

Callaghan Campus Timetable
Lecture 14:00 – 16:00 MCLG56

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Academic integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge, truth and ethical practices are fundamental to the business of the University. These principles are at the core of all academic endeavour in teaching, learning and research. Dishonest practices contravene academic values, compromise the integrity of research and devalue the quality of learning. To preserve the quality of learning for the individual and others, the University may impose severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity. There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

Academic fraud is a form of academic dishonesty that involves making a false representation to gain an unjust advantage. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it can include:

a) falsification of data;
b) using a substitute person to undertake, in full or part, an examination or other assessment item;
c) reusing one's own work, or part thereof, that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission);
d) making contact or colluding with another person, contrary to instructions, during an examination or other assessment item;
e) bringing material or device(s) into an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item; and
f) making use of computer software or other material and device(s) during an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item.
g) contract cheating or having another writer compete for tender to produce an essay or assignment and then submitting the work as one's own.

Plagiarism is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one's own. University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

a) copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
b) using another person's ideas without due acknowledgment;
c) collusion or working with others without permission, and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

Turnitin is an electronic text matching system. During 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 text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).
Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

RE-MARKS AND MODERATIONS
Students can access the University's policy at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html

MARKS AND GRADES RELEASED DURING TERM

All marks and grades released during term are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING ASSESSMENT ITEMS

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations items must be submitted by the due date in the Course Outline unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension. Unapproved late submissions will be penalised in line with the University policy. Requests for Extensions of Time must be lodged no later than the due date of the item. This applies to students:

- applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
- 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.

Students must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, as outlined in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html

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

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- Special Consideration Requests must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- Rescheduling Exam requests must be received no later than 10 working days prior the first date of the examination period.

Late applications may not be accepted. Students who cannot meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak firstly to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

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 contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, 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 on confidentiality and documentation visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability.

CHANGING YOUR ENROLMENT

Students enrolled after the census dates listed in the link below are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term. http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/fees/censusdates.html

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of term. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of term will result in a fail grade. Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of term, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of term must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online go to myHub: https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

STUDENT INFORMATION & CONTACTS
Various services are offered by the Student Support Unit:
www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia. Student Hubs are located at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Callaghan Campus</th>
<th>Port Macquarie students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building</td>
<td>contact your program officer or <a href="mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au">EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre</td>
<td>Phone 4921 5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Hub &amp; Information Common, University House</td>
<td>Singapore students contact your PSB Program Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Hub: Opposite the Main Cafeteria</td>
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Callaghan Campus  Port Macquarie  Hunter Hub  
Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building  University House  
Student Services Centre  
City Hub & Information Common, University House  
Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)  
Student Hub: Opposite the Main Cafeteria

Port Macquarie students  Singapore students  
contact your program officer or EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au  contact your PSB Program Executive

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Faculty Websites
- www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/
- www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/
- www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/
- www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/humanities/
- www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/
- www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/science-it/
- Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards
  - www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000311.html
- Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards
- Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards

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Online Tutorial Registration:

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - 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.

Important Additional Information
Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
LECTURES AND READINGS

Lectures are on Mondays, in room (a combination of lecture and discussion).

**Week 1 - 27 July**
Introduction: Aristotle
Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 1 chs 1-3

**Week 2 - 3 August**
Happiness as the ultimate end
Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I chs 4-7

**Week 3 - 10 August**
Human nature, happiness and reason
Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I chs 7-13

**Week 4 - 17 August**
Virtues and the doctrine of the mean
Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book II

**Week 5 - 24 August**
Theoretical reason and ultimate fulfillment
Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book X

**Week 6 - 31 August**
Aquinas: human nature
Reading: Excerpts from *Summa Contra Gentiles*

**Week 7 - 7 September**
God, natural law and morality
Reading: Excerpts from *Summa Theologica*

**Week 8 - 14 September**
Nietzsche’s Critique of Traditional Philosophy
Reading: *Beyond Good and Evil*, Preface and Part 1

**Week 9 - 21 September**
The Free Spirit and the Philosophers of the Future
Reading: *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 2 (esp. sections 41-44); part 3 (61); part 6 (204-7, 210-13)
First essay due.

**BREAK 28 September - 9 October**

**Week 10 - 12 October**
The ‘Natural history of Morals’ and the notion of the Will to Power
Reading: *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 5; Part 6 (211); part IX (257-9)

**Week 11 - 19 October**
Nietzsche on Master and Slave morality
Reading: *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 9 (257-65); *Genealogy of Morals* Essay 1

**Week 12 - 26 October**
Nietzsche on the Self and the ‘Psychology of Conscience’
Reading: *Genealogy of Morals* Essay 2

**Week 13 - 2 November**
No lecture; second essay due