PHIL3060 – TOPICS IN ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL AND MODERN PHILOSOPHY
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Chris Falzon
Room: MC120
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Fax: 4921 6933
Email: Chris.Falzon@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: 4-5 pm. Other times by appointment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Hubs are located at:</th>
<th>Callaghan</th>
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<tr>
<td>Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan</td>
<td>Office hours: 9am – 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan</td>
<td>Room: MC127 McMullin Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ground Floor, University House, City</td>
<td>Phone: +61 2 4921 5175 or 5172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah</td>
<td>Fax: +61 2 4921 6933</td>
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| Email: Humanities-SocialScience@newcastle.edu.au |
| Web: www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/ |

**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: 2 hours per week

**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 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.

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

CTS Download Date: 29 January 2006
Assumed Knowledge: At least 10 credit points of PHIL subjects at 1000 level or 40 credit points of any subjects at any level.

Assessment Items: Assessment consists of the following: Two 2,000 word essays worth 50% each

Callaghan Campus Timetable
PHIL3060
TOPICS IN ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL AND MODERN PHILOSOPHY
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2006
Lecture Tuesday 14:00 - 16:00 [W238]

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 - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/academic_integrity_policy_new.html

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.

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 given to the lecturer**.
- **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 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:
- First essay; second essay.

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.

Penalties for Late Assignments
Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the **reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark** for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted **more than ten days** after the due date will be awarded **zero marks**.

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 Lecturer to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

Remarks
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the 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
There is no preferred referencing style, as long as the same style is used throughout the assignment. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure. Information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from Infoskills: [www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html)

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, particular for information on the options available to you, at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/adm_prog/adverse_circumstances.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/adm_prog/adverse_circumstances.html)
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 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: 

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

REGISTRATION AND BLACKBOARD
Online Tutorial Registration:
Students are required to enrol in the Lecture for this course via the Online Registration system: http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm  Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

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.

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TEXTS
- Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics and Nietzsche’s Beyond Good and Evil and Genealogy of Morals are the prescribed texts for the course. They are available at the Co-op Bookshop in town. It is recommended that you buy the prescribed texts, but copies will be placed in the Short Loans section of the library.
- Excerpts from Aquinas, Summa Contra Gentiles and Summa Theologicae are available on the Auchmuty Library Short Loans service in pdf file format.
- In addition, supplementary reading has been placed on Short Loans. Go to Library, Short loans, type in PHIL3060.
LECTURES AND READINGS

Lectures are on Tuesdays, 2-4 pm, in room W238 (a combination of lecture and discussion).

**Week 1  18 July**
Introduction: Aristotle
Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I chs 1-3

**Week 2  25 July**
Happiness as the ultimate end
Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I chs 4-7

**Week 3  1 August**
Human nature, happiness and reason
Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I chs 7-13

**Week 4  8 August**
Virtues and the doctrine of the mean
Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book II

**Week 5  15 August**
Theoretical reason and ultimate fulfillment
Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book X

**Week 6  22 August**
Aquinas: human nature
Reading: Excerpts from *Summa Contra Gentiles*

**Week 7  29 August**
God, natural law and morality
Reading: Excerpts from *Summa Theologica*

**Week 8  5 September**
Nietzsche’s Critique of Traditional Philosophy
Reading: *Beyond Good and Evil*, Preface and Part 1

**Week 9  12 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.

**Week 10  19 September**
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  26 September**
Nietzsche on Master and Slave morality
Reading: *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 9 (257-65); *Genealogy of Morals* Essay 1

BREAK

**Week 12  17 October**
Nietzsche on the Self and the ‘Psychology of Conscience’
Reading: *Genealogy of Morals* Essay 2
Week 13 24 October
Summary and overview

Week 14 31 October
No lecture; second essay due.

ASSESSMENT
There are two pieces of assessment for this subject.
1st essay (2,000-2,500 words) Worth 50% Due 12 September (week 9)
Second essay (2,000-2,500 words) Worth 50% Due 31 October (week 14)

Restating points made in lectures and the texts, organized and in your own terms, will show that you have understood the material; you will do better if you do further research and offer your own critique, backed by sound argument.

First essay
Possible first essay topics:

1. Do you think that Aristotle establishes that there is a single end, one final good, for human beings? Explain why or why not.

2. Explain in detail Aristotle’s ‘doctrine of the mean’.

3. ‘The account of the good for human beings that we are left with at the end of Book X of Aristotle’s *Ethics* could hardly be considered a complete account of the human good.’ Discuss.

4. ‘The problem with Aquinas’s moral philosophy is that he is not really concerned with the human good.’ Discuss.

5. What does Aquinas mean by ‘natural law’? ‘By ‘eternal law’? How are the two related?

6. You can also formulate your own question. This requires discussion with me at least 3 weeks before the essay is due.

Second essay
Possible second essay topics:

1. In *Beyond Good and Evil* Nietzsche develops the notion of a ‘philosophy of the future’ Explain and critically discuss this notion.

2. What is Nietzsche’s ‘natural history of morals’? What is the relationship between his historical enquiry into morality and his notion of the will to power? Explain and discuss.

3. Explain and discuss Nietzsche’s distinction between master-morality and slave-morality.

4. Nietzsche provides a critique of the intellectual atmosphere in the Europe of his day in terms of nihilism. Explain and discuss Nietzsche’s account of nihilism.

5. You can also formulate your own question. This requires discussion with me at least 3 weeks before the essay is due.
OTHER

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 Lecturer 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:

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

Aristotle


Aquinas


**Nietzsche**


Tanner, M. *Nietzsche* Oxford 1994