PHIL3120 - Philosophy & Film
Course Outline

Course Coordinator  Chris Falzon
Semester           Semester 2 - 2010
Unit Weighting     10
Teaching Methods   Lecture  Tutorial

Room: MC120
Ph: 4921 5184
Fax: 4921 6933
Email: Chris.Falzon@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Thursday 1-2

Brief Course Description
Introduces students to an appreciation and critical appraisal of the way in which central philosophical issues are treated in feature films and in turn illuminate the nature of film.

Contact Hours
Laboratory for 3 Hours per Week for 12 Weeks
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term
Laboratory - Film Screening
A group discussion plus a film will be incorporated as part of the course.
For particular dates and times refer to course outline.

Learning Materials/Texts

Course Objectives
(1) to raise students' appreciative awareness of film as a distinctive medium for the presentation of ethical, epistemological and other central philosophical issues, and to provide a basic knowledge of the distinctive characteristics of this means of presenting philosophical issues.
(2) to impart to students the skills required for them to be able to engage in critical assessment of film presentations.
(3) to enable students to effectively communicate their understanding and appreciation and to interact

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at:  Week 1, Semester 2 - 2010

CTS Download Date: 16/7/10
effectively so as to problem solve with diverse communal groups.

(4) to provide students a critical appreciation of the larger framework of Western literary media as it has
developed in relation to society.

Course Content
A screening and systematic study of several major films (e.g. Rashomon, Japan, focusing on the
epistemological problem of point of view and the construction of objective knowledge, and the apportionment
of responsibility and blame), supported by text and video commentary and supporting critical philosophical
text. The detailed films, texts and study issues will vary from year to year to suit student needs and staff
competencies.

Assessment Items

| Essays / Written Assignments | Assessment will normally be by 2 essays, each of 2,000-2,500 words, each worth 50%, but may be varied in composition and weight to suit the films involved. These essays will require the student to explain the central concepts, principles and arguments of the material studied, and to analyse the natures of their film presentations, guided by the assigned readings and seminar discussions. The latter provides continual assessment and feedback on individual student ability to properly engage the subject matter. |

Assumed Knowledge
Either 10 units of Philosophy, English or Film courses at 1000 level, or 40 units of any courses at any level.

Callaghan Campus Timetable
PHIL3120
Philos & Film
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2010
Film Screen  Friday  8:00 - 11:00  [MCLG56]
and Lecture  Friday  12:00 - 14:00  [MCG28C]

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.
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 specified in Late Penalty (under student) at the link above.

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:
**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>
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<tr>
<th>Callaghan Campus</th>
<th>Port Macquarie Student Hub</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building</td>
<td>The University of Newcastle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre</td>
<td>A Block, Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Precinct</td>
<td>Widderson Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Hub &amp; Information Common, University House</td>
<td>Port Macquarie NSW 2444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)</td>
<td>Phone: 49215000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Hub: Opposite the Main Cafeteria</td>
<td>Singapore students</td>
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<td></td>
<td>contact your PSB Program Executive</td>
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**OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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<th>Faculty Websites</th>
<th>Dean of Students Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/</a></td>
<td>Phone: 02 4921 5806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/</a></td>
<td>Fax: 02 4921 7151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Dean-of-Students@newcastle.edu.au">Dean-of-Students@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
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Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards  

Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards  

Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards  

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

Ourimbah  
Phone: 02 4348 4030

Dean of Students Office  
The Dean of Students and Deputy Dean of Students work to ensure that all students receive fair and equitable treatment at the University. In doing this they provide information and advice and help students resolve problems of an academic nature.  

University Complaints Managers Office  
The University is committed to maintaining and enhancing fair, equitable and safe work practices and promoting positive relationships with its staff and students. There is a single system to deal with all types of complaints, ranging from minor administrative matters to more serious deeply held grievances concerning unfair, unjust or unreasonable behaviour.  

Campus Care  
The Campus Care program has been set up
This course outline will not be altered after the second week of the term except under extenuating circumstances with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of the change.

End of CTS Entry

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
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students

LECTURES

Note: this is a provisional list - things may be changed as we proceed. There will be a film screening, Friday 8-11, though we would normally start the film at 9 [room MCLG56] and a 2-hour lecture Friday 12-2 [room MCG28C]. Note: film screenings begin in week 2.

All references unless otherwise noted are to the set text, Philosophy Goes to the Movies.

Week 1 - 30 July
Introduction; no film screening
Reading: pp.3-13; 19-25

1. KNOWLEDGE

Week 2 - 6 August
Is seeing believing? Rear Window
Reading: pp. 36-46
Week 3 - 13 August
Truth and perspective: *Rashomon*
Reading: pp.46-51

2. ETHICS

Week 4 - 20 August
Personhood and moral worth: *Blade Runner*
Reading: pp. 89-97

Week 5 - 27 August
Why be moral?: *Crimes and Misdemeanors*
Reading: pp. 101-117

Week 6 - 3 September
The individual and morality: *High Noon*
Reading: pp. 117-124

Week 7 - 10 September
Morality and memory: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*
Reading: Chris Grau, 'Eternal Sunshine & the Morality of Memory'
Reading: pp. 124-31

3. INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

Week 8 – 17 September
Nihilism and freedom: *Breathless*
Reading: pp. 131-140
FIRST ESSAY DUE

Week 9 - 24 September
Image and politics: *The Truman Show*
Reading: pp. 148-156; 161-2; see also 30, 33

BREAK

Week 10 - 15 October
Consumerism and critique: *Fight Club*
Reading: Henry Giroux, 'Private Satisfactions and Public Disorders'
Reading: pp. 156-168

Week 11 – 22 October
Power and knowledge: *Gattaca*
Reading: pp. 205-212

Week 12 - 29 October
Film and philosophy: *Run Lola Run*
Reading: pp. 88-89

Week 13 - 5 November
No lecture
SECOND ESSAY DUE