PHIL4060 - Philosophy Honours II

Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: John Wright
Room: MC113
Ph: 49 215182
Fax: 49 216933
Email: John.Wright@newcastle.edu.au

Consultation hours: Tuesday 3-5pm

Semester: Semester 1 - 2006
Unit Weighting: 20
Teaching Methods: Seminar

Brief Course Description
Studied in conjunction with PHIL 4050, PHIL 4070 and PHIL 4080, the four courses jointly constituting the honours program in philosophy - provides honours philosophy students with an opportunity to participate in an intensive in-depth study seminar on a major area, theme or problem in philosophy based in extensive reading and extended critical discussion.

Contact Hours
Seminar for 3 Hours per Week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts
Recommended reading D. Chalmers The Conscious Mind

Course Objectives
The objectives of the honours program in philosophy are:

(1) Impart to individual students mature and disciplined knowledge to honours level of philosophical themes, problems or areas.

(2) Impart to students critical skills, to honours level, to deal with the issues involved and employ the knowledge and methods involved 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 Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 2 Semester 1 2006
CTS Download Date: 20 February 2006
**Course Content**
The philosophy honours program comprises 3 seminars on 3 distinct aspects of philosophy and a written thesis. The specific content of a seminar will vary with the expertise of the staff member preparing the seminar; the thesis topic will be chosen in the light of the student’s interests, abilities and experience, in relation to those of supervising staff. Seminars have, e.g., recently included studies of scientific rationality, the rise of virtue ethics, and the rational basis of sociality.

**Assessment Items**

| Essays / Written Assignments | Assessment for the honours program in philosophy comprises 5000 words of written work for each of 4 seminars plus a written thesis of 12000 words, for a total of 32000 words. Assessment for each seminar will be by written work that will be individually structured to suit the subject matter. It will normally be by 2 essays, one of 2000 words, 40%, the other of 3000 words, 60%, but this may be varied to include, for example, more frequent, smaller case studies, summaries and the like earlier on, to equivalent value, as the subject matter requires. These essays will require the student to demonstrate mastery of the central concepts, principles and arguments of the material studied. Independent research will be required, guided by the assigned readings and seminar discussions, the latter providing continual assessment and feedback on individual student ability to properly engage the subject matter. |

**Assumed Knowledge**
110 units of successfully completed Philosophy courses, or equivalent, plus qualification for entry to the B.A. pass degree, or equivalent.

**Callaghan Campus Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHIL4060</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILOSOPHY HONOURS II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1 – 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.pdf](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/academic_integrity_policy_new.pdf)

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.


**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 2006
For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2006
For Trimester 1 courses: 17 February 2006
For Trimester 2 courses: 9 June 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/changingenrolment.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:

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic 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 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
**Studentmail and Blackboard:** [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://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](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/assess_coversheet.pdf)
- **Assignments are to be deposited in the relevant discipline assignment box:**
  - Callaghan students: Mc127 McMullin building
  - Ourimbah students: Room H01.43
- **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 backups 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:

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.

**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.
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 acceptable, provided it is clear and consistent.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:


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:

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Introduction.
   The “hard” problem and the “easy” problems.
   Historical Background:
      The case for dualism. The forms of dualism

Week 2: Historical Background:
   Problems for dualism
   Forms of dualism

Week 3: Recent Philosophy of Mind
   Behaviourism
   Functionalism
   Jackson and “Mary saw red”
   Kripke’s new Cartesian argument
   Necessary identity and rigid designation

Week 4. Chalmers on the irreducibility of conscious experience
   “Zombies” and the explanatory gap

Week 5. Chalmers’ arguments for dualism.

   “Mysterianism”
   Epiphenomenalism again

Week 7 Scepticism about consciousness
   Churchland
   Wilkes
   Dennett

Week 8 Recent discussions of the Descartes/Kripke argument against materialism.
   Conceivability and possibility

Week 9 Consciousness and freewill

Week 10 Personal Identity and Consciousness

Week 11 Review of arguments

Week 12 General Seminar

Week 13 General Seminar
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Historical background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Recent Philos of Mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Chalmers on irreducibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Chalmers on dualism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Chalmers on dualism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Scepticism about consciousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Good Friday Holiday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mid-Semester Recess: Friday 14 April - Friday 28 April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Conceivability and possibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Consciousness and free will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Personal identity and consciousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>General seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>General seminar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday: Monday 12 June

Examination period: Tuesday 13 June - Friday 30 June