



The
University
of Sydney

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Department of Philosophy

Student information guide

undergraduate



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Welcome

to the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry (SOPHI). This unit guide provides information regarding the undergraduate programs offered by the department of Philosophy. For information regarding other programs offered in this School please consult the individual departmental unit guides, available from the SOPHI enquiry counter.

Key dates

Semester 1

Mon 1 March	Lectures begin
Fri 2 - Fri 9 April	Semester break
Fri 4 June	Last day of lectures
Mon 7 - Fri 11 June	Study vacation
Mon 14 - Sat 26 June	Examination period
Sat 26 June	Semester ends

Semester 2

Mon 26 July	Lectures begin
Mon 27 Sep - Fri 1 Oct	Semester break
Fri 29 Oct	Last day of lectures
Mon 1 - Fri 5 Nov	Study vacation
Mon 8 - Sat 20 Nov	Examination period
Sat 20 Nov	Semester ends

Student enquiries

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(SOPHI)

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Disclaimer: The information in this handbook was correct at the time of publication. The University reserves the right to make changes to this information at any time without notice. Please see the department's website for the latest information.

Why study Philosophy?

Philosophy is a subject that inquires into fundamental questions about ourselves and the world. Students will develop critical thinking skills and enhance their reading, writing and comprehension skills. Training in philosophy is highly valued by a range of professions including business, law, journalism, politics and management. The Department of Philosophy offers a wide range of units of study in the areas of: History of Philosophy; Epistemology, Metaphysics and Logic; and Aesthetics, Ethics and Political Philosophy. Philosophy junior units are introductions to basic areas of philosophy. Senior units may then be taken from a pool of options; 36 senior credit points constitute a major in Philosophy. For those students wishing to continue the study of Philosophy at an advanced level, Philosophy Honours is available to qualified students.

Philosophy at the University of Sydney

The Philosophy department at the University of Sydney offers students a unique opportunity to develop interests in a wide range of philosophical studies from a variety of philosophical approaches. Among the staff are world-renowned experts in many areas of philosophy, and students will find units of study available in such diverse topics as philosophy of mind, moral psychology, and phenomenology; formal and informal logic; ethics, aesthetics, political and legal philosophy and critical theories of society and modernity; and the history of ancient and modern philosophy.

What do we teach?

Philosophy at Sydney begins with an introduction to all the major branches of the discipline. In their junior units students are introduced to basic questions about the nature of reality (metaphysics), how one should live (ethics), what kinds of human productions have value (aesthetics), theories of society and the state (political philosophy), the nature of the self (existentialism and phenomenology) and the criteria for knowledge (epistemology). They can also undertake an introductory unit in the formal study of reasoning and argument (logic). In senior units students can go on to pursue more developed units of study in these areas, as well as units in the history of philosophy. In the honours year, students can specialise in one of the branches of philosophy by selecting a thesis topic and working closely with a supervisor. Some philosophy units are also available as cross-listed units of study from other departments.

How does studying Philosophy help my career?

Philosophy is a discipline that forces you to think carefully about claims people make and beliefs you hold, not only asking whether they are true or not, but also inquiring into what it would take for them to be true. Thus philosophers often ask you to conjecture that the world might be different from how you suppose it to be, and then to inquire into the consequences of its being so. The sharpness and openness of philosophical thinking are highly valuable to any career in which you have to make constant evaluations and adjustments in thinking. Philosophy students have done well and have been highly valued in business careers, law and politics. Historically, philosophy has also been closely associated with both scientific and social and political thinking, and many of the most famous philosophers have made significant contributions beyond philosophy itself.

Undergraduate program

Junior units

There are three junior units of study, each worth 6 credit points:

- PHIL1011 Reality, Ethics and Beauty (first semester)
- PHIL1012 Introductory Logic (second semester)
- PHIL1013 Society, Knowledge and Self (second semester)

You can do any one, any two, or all three. The normal requirement for entry to senior Philosophy units is 12 junior credit points in Philosophy, and for units with this prerequisite the combination of any two of the above is sufficient. (If you have completed PHIL1016 Mind and Morality HSC, this can be counted as equivalent to PHIL1011; and you may apply for special permission to do a senior Philosophy unit in first semester.)

Senior units

The following units of study will be available; all are worth 6 credit points.

History of Philosophy program

- PHIL2600 Twentieth Century Philosophy
- PHIL2605 Locke and Empiricism
- PHIL2629 Descartes and Continental Philosophy
- PHIL2648 German Philosophy: Leibniz to Nietzsche
- PHIL2649 The Classical Mind

Epistemology, Metaphysics and Logic program

- PHIL2606 Knowledge, Reason and Action
- PHIL2615 Intermediate Logic
- PHIL2621 Truth, Meaning and Language
- PHIL2622 Reality, Time and Possibility: Metaphysics
- PHIL2626 Philosophy and Psychoanalysis
- PHIL2642 Critical Thinking
- PHIL2643 Philosophy of Mind
- PHIL2650 Logic and Computation

Aesthetics, Ethics and Political Philosophy program

- PHIL2617 Practical Ethics
- PHIL2623 Moral Psychology
- PHIL2625 Hannah Arendt
- PHIL2633 Theorising Modernity
- PHIL2634 Democratic Theory
- PHIL2635 Contemporary Political Philosophy
- PHIL2644 Critical Theory: from Marx to Foucault
- PHIL2645 Philosophy of Law
- PHIL2646 Philosophy and Literature
- PHIL2647 Philosophy of Happiness

Spanning all three programs

- PHIL3618 Pre-Honours Seminar



Major in Philosophy

In order to satisfy the requirements for a philosophy major, students must complete at least 36 senior credit points, no more than six of which may be counted from among the department's cross-listed units of study. The Philosophy department strongly recommends that students complete at least 6 credit points from each of the three philosophy programs.

What other disciplines complement Philosophy?

Philosophy raises fundamental questions about practically everything. For example, it raises questions about the very definition of every discipline. Thus there is practically no discipline that can't be usefully combined with the study of philosophy. Among the disciplines that have had a particularly close association with philosophy are: science, law, psychology, religious studies, politics and classics.

Cross-listed units of study

Designated units of study taught by other departments in the Faculty of Arts may be counted as part of a major. The list of cross-listed units is made available each year at: http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/current_students/undergrad/crosslisted.shtml

Postgraduate study

The Faculty of Arts offers a wide range of coursework and research programs. For more information please consult the Arts Postgraduate Prospectus available from the Faculty website at: http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/future_students/PGcoursework/degrees.shtml

and the Philosophy department website at: <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/philos/postgrad/index.shtml>

Policy information

For information on School policies regarding assessment please visit the School website at: <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/school/sophi>

Prizes, scholarships and financial assistance

Information scholarships and financial assistance can be found at:

on http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/current_students/scholarships.shtml

Information on the Department's prizes and scholarships can be found at:

<http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/philos/undergrad/scholarships.shtml>



Units of study 2010

Semester 1

PHIL1011	Reality, Ethics and Beauty
PHIL2600	Twentieth Century Philosophy
PHIL2605	Locke and Empiricism
PHIL2606	Knowledge, Reason and Action
PHIL2617	Practical Ethics
PHIL2622	Reality, Time & Possibility: Metaphysics
PHIL2623	Moral Psychology
PHIL2625	Hannah Arendt
PHIL2633	Theorising Modernity
PHIL2634	Democratic Theory
PHIL2635	Contemporary Political Philosophy
PHIL2645	Philosophy of Law
PHIL2649	The Classical Mind
PHIL3618	Pre-Honours Seminar

Summer School

PHIL1011	Reality, Ethics and Beauty
PHIL1012	Introductory Logic
PHIL2643	Philosophy of Mind
PHIL2647	The Philosophy of Happiness

Semester 2

PHIL1012	Introductory Logic
PHIL1013	Society, Knowledge and Self
PHIL2615	Intermediate Logic
PHIL2621	Truth, Meaning and Language
PHIL2626	Philosophy and Psychoanalysis
PHIL2629	Descartes and Continental Philosophy
PHIL2642	Critical Thinking
PHIL2643	Philosophy of Mind
PHIL2644	Critical Theory: From Marx to Foucault
PHIL2646	Philosophy and Literature
PHIL2647	The Philosophy of Happiness
PHIL2648	German Philosophy, Leibniz to Nietzsche
PHIL2650	Logic and Computation

Winter School

PHIL3618	Pre-Honours Seminar
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Semesters 1 and 2

Philosophy Honours

Junior units of study

PHIL1011 Reality, Ethics and Beauty

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Thomas Besch **Session:** Semester 1, Summer Main **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prohibitions:** PHIL1003, PHIL1004, PHIL1006, PHIL1008 **Assessment:** tutorial participation, one 2000 word essay, one 2 hour exam

This unit is an introduction to central issues in metaphysics, ethics and aesthetics. It opens with general questions about reality, God, personal identity and free will. The middle section of the unit will consider questions about values, goodness and responsibility. The final part is concerned with the question "what is art", the nature of aesthetic judgment and the role of art in our lives. *Textbooks* Readings will be available from the University Copy Centre.

PHIL1012 Introductory Logic

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Nicholas Smith **Session:** Semester 2, Summer Main **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Assessment:** two assignments and one 2 hour exam

An introduction to modern logic: the investigation of the laws of truth. One essential aspect of good reasoning or argumentation is that it is valid: it cannot lead from true premisses to a false conclusion. In this course we learn how to identify and construct valid arguments, using techniques such as truth tables, models and truth trees. Apart from being a great aid to clear thinking about any subject, knowledge of logic is essential for understanding many areas not only of contemporary philosophy, but also linguistics, mathematics and computing.

PHIL1013 Society, Knowledge and Self

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Luke Russell **Session:** Semester 2 **Classes:** two 1 hour lectures and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prohibitions:** PHIL1010 **Assessment:** tutorial participation, one 2000 word essay, one 2 hour exam

This unit is an introduction to central issues in political philosophy, theories of knowledge and philosophical conceptions of the self. The first part will consider the state, freedom and political obligation. The second part will examine some of the major theories of knowledge in the modern philosophical tradition. The final section will look at conceptions of the self as a knowing and acting subject. *Textbooks* Readings will be available from the Copy Centre.

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Senior units of study

PHIL2600 Twentieth Century Philosophy

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Michael McDermott **Session:** Semester 1
Classes: one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL2000
Assessment: tutorial participation, one 2500 word essay, one 2 hour exam

Main developments in philosophical thought in the twentieth century. Topics include: logical atomism; logical positivism and its attack on metaphysics; conceptual analysis; Quine, holism, behaviourism, and the overthrow of positivism; the resurgence of metaphysics; functionalism in the philosophy of mind; modal realism. Essential background for understanding how philosophy is done today in English-speaking countries.
Textbooks Ayer AJ. *Language, Truth and Logic*. London. Penguin 2001 Readings will be available from the University Copy Centre.

PHIL2605 Locke and Empiricism

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Anik Waldow **Session:** Semester 1 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL3005, PHIL2005
Assessment: one 1000 word tutorial exercise, one 500 word essay plan, one 2500-3000 word essay

In this unit we will study some of the major philosophical works of the Classical British Empiricists, John Locke (1632-1704), George Berkeley (1685-1753), and David Hume (1711-1776). We shall focus attention on their theoretical philosophy, considering epistemological topics such as the nature, limits and justification of human knowledge; and metaphysical topics such as substance, causation, the primary-secondary quality distinction and personal identity. The unit will also consider the contemporary relevance of these thinkers. *Textbooks* John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, ed. Nidditch. (OUP) George Berkeley, *The Principles of Human Knowledge* (Hackett) --- *Three Dialogues between Hylas & Philonous* (Hackett) David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature* (2nd ed.) eds. Selby-Bigge & Nidditch (OUP).



PHIL2606 Knowledge, Reason and Action

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Michael McDermott **Session:** Semester 1 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Assessment:** One 2500 word essay and one 2 hour exam

This unit covers three topics in epistemology: what knowledge is, how it can be obtained, and what to do with it. The first component involves a study of the nature of knowledge, and the various attempts to define it. The second is concerned with principles of reason and investigation, and how to assess whether they are good sources of knowledge. The final component is to do with the theory of decision: what methods should be used to apply knowledge in the choice of action.

PHIL2615 Intermediate Logic

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Michael McDermott **Session:** Semester 2 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy and PHIL1012 or PHIL2203 or PHIL2628. **Prohibitions:** PHIL2215, PHIL3215 **Assessment:** one 2 hour exam and weekly exercises

The axiomatic approach to classical logic. The focus is on proofs of the main metalogical results — consistency, completeness, etc — for the propositional and predicate calculi.

PHIL2617 Practical Ethics

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Caroline West **Session:** Semester 1 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitions:** PHIL2517 **Assessment:** one 2000 word essay and one 2500 word take-home exam

This unit draws on contemporary moral philosophy to shed light on some of the most pressing practical, ethical questions of our time, including euthanasia, abortion, surrogacy, censorship, animal rights, genetic testing and cloning and environmental ethics. By the end of the unit, students should have a good understanding of these practical ethical issues; and, more crucially, be equipped with the conceptual resources to think through new ethical questions and dilemmas as they arise in their personal and professional lives. *Textbooks* Readings will be available from the University Copy Centre.

PHIL2621 Truth, Meaning and Language

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Adrian Heathcote **Session:** Semester 2 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2 hour exam

This unit covers central issues in contemporary philosophy of language, such as the relationship between language and the world, the nature of meaning and truth, problems involved in interpreting and understanding the speech of others, the role of context in determining meaning, and the nature of metaphor.

PHIL2622 Reality, Time & Possibility: Metaphysics

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Kristie Miller **Session:** Semester 1 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Assessment:** one 1400 word essay, one 2000 word essay and 11 short multiple choice quizzes

This is a course in metaphysics: the discipline that tells us about the nature of the world. The unit carries on from the Reality component of first year. We engage with questions like: What is time? What is space? What makes something a person? How much change can I undergo and still be me? Are objects four-dimensional space-time worms? Do the past or future exist, and could we travel to them? Are there numbers?

PHIL2623 Moral Psychology

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Luke Russell **Session:** Semester 1 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitions:** PHIL2513, PHIL3513 **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2000 word take-home exam

After a brief survey of normative ethics, we consider the following: How should we evaluate motives and emotions? What are virtue, vice and weakness of will? Are any actions or persons evil? When should we feel guilty or ashamed? What is moral luck? Has natural selection designed us to be moral, or do we learn to be good? Is there any objective truth in morality, or are moral claims somehow subjective or culturally relative? Is morality merely a useful fiction? *Textbooks* Readings available from the University Copy Centre.

PHIL2625 Hannah Arendt

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr John Grumley **Session:** Semester 1 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL2515, PHIL3515 **Assessment:** one 250 word tutorial paper, one 2250 word essay and one 2000 word take-home essay

No 20th century political philosopher has captured as much attention as Hannah Arendt. Those seeking a fresh approach beyond the traditional right and left, as well as contemporary feminists are all drawn to her vivid reading of tradition, her diagnosis of the present and path-breaking analysis of totalitarianism, human rights and refugees. This course examines key concepts like natality and novel reading of politics, freedom and promising and her contemporary appropriation by Giorgio Agamben with his concept of "bare life". *Textbooks* Reader will be available from the University Copy Centre.

PHIL2626 Philosophy and Psychoanalysis

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Michael McDermott **Session:** Semester 2 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitions:** PHIL2207, PHIL3207, PHIL2226 and PHIL3226. **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2000 word take-home exam

An analysis and critique of the main ideas in Freudian psychoanalysis, their philosophical background, and their influence in subsequent philosophy of mind. *Textbooks* Freud, S. *Introductory Lectures in Psychoanalysis*, Wollheim, R. Freud.

PHIL2629 Descartes and Continental Philosophy

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Anik Waldow **Session:** Semester 2 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL2004, PHIL3004 **Assessment:** one 1000 word tutorial exercise, one 500 word essay plan, one 2500-3000 word essay

Descartes is generally regarded as the founder of modern philosophy, and in this unit we look both at his own contribution, and at his influence on the subsequent course of philosophical thought in the work of Malebranche, Spinoza, and Leibniz. Just over half the unit will be devoted to Descartes' own thought, and we will look at the various stages in the development of his ideas. In the second half of the unit, we will examine the ideas of his successors on selected metaphysical themes, above all on perception and the mind/body question. *Textbooks* R. Descartes, *Discourse on Method and Other Writings*, trans. D. Clarke (Penguin paperback) R. Descartes, *Meditations and Other Metaphysical Writings*, trans. D. Clarke (Penguin paperback) G. Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics and other Essays* (Hackett paperback) B. Spinoza, *Ethics*, (Penguin paperback)

PHIL2633 Theorising Modernity

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr John Grumley **Session:** Semester 1 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 junior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL1007, PHIL2533 **Assessment:** one 2000 word essay and one 2500 word take-home exam

A survey of a range of classical 19th century theories from the standpoint of what they offer to the understanding of the newly emerging modern bourgeois social world. The work of Hegel, Marx, de Tocqueville, and Nietzsche will serve as paradigmatic attempts to discover the essence of this new society. Recurring themes and features will be examined through the prism of these thinkers: these include the problem of meaning after the collapse of tradition, the rise of secularism, capitalism, industrialisation, democracy, bureaucratisation and individualism — their features, antinomies and problems. The unit is also intended as an introduction to the thinkers concerned while focusing in each case on their theorisation of modernity.



PHIL2634 Democratic Theory

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Thomas Besch **Session:** Semester 1 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 junior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL2514 **Assessment:** one 2000 word essay and one 2500 word take-home exam

A unit in political philosophy. The unit will examine various theoretical and normative justifications of democracy, as well as the historical foundations of these arguments. It will also examine particular issues in democratic theory, such as the tension between democracy and constitutionalism, the issue of justice and democracy, the challenges of social and cultural pluralism, and questions regarding the justification of political principles. The unit will also consider the scope and limits of democracy, including the extension of democratic norms and institutions across national boundaries.

PHIL2635 Contemporary Political Philosophy

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Justine McGill **Session:** Semester 1 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL3535, PHIL2535 **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2000 word take-home exam

A critical introduction to the major schools of thought in contemporary political philosophy, organized around the theme of inclusion and exclusion. The inclusive ambitions of liberal political theory will be confronted with objections from thinkers motivated by concern with various facets of social and political exclusion, notably based on the categories of gender, cultural difference, deviancy and statelessness. Debates relating to refugees and asylum seekers will be considered in the latter part of this unit of study. *Textbooks* Kymlicka, W. *Introduction to Contemporary Political Philosophy*, OUP, 2nd edition. Unit reader available from the Copy Centre.



PHIL2642 Critical Thinking

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Luke Russell **Session:** Semester 2 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in any units within the University **Assessment:** one 2000 word essay, one in-class test and one 2 hour exam

An introduction to critical thinking and the analysis of argument. Through examination of arguments drawn from diverse sources, including journalism, advertising, science, medicine, history, economics and politics, we will learn to distinguish good from bad arguments, and how to construct rationally persuasive arguments of our own. Along the way we will grapple with scepticism, conspiracy theories and pseudoscience. The reasoning skills imparted by this unit make it invaluable not only for philosophy students but for every student at the University.

PHIL2643 Philosophy of Mind

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Michael McDermott **Session:** Semester 2, Summer Main **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL2213, PHIL3213, PHIL2205 **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2000 word take-home exam

An introduction to modern theories of the nature of mind, and some important contemporary issues in the philosophy of mind. Topics will include the problem of mental representation (how can minds think about the world?), the relationship of minds to brains, and the problem of consciousness. *Textbooks* *The Philosophy of Mind and Cognition*, D. Braddon-Mitchell and F. Jackson, Blackwell, Oxford 1997.

PHIL2644 Critical Theory: From Marx to Foucault

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr John Grumley **Session:** Semester 2 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 junior credit points **Assessment:** one 2000 word essay, one 2000 word take-home exam, one 500 word tutorial paper

The idea of critical theory emerged as an attempt to go beyond the alleged impasses of philosophy and actually challenge the world. This unit will consider various phases in the history of this project: from Marx, the Frankfurt School, to Foucault and Habermas. It will examine both the innovations and weaknesses of these various formulations in their historical context, as well as considering contemporary efforts to reanimate the idea of critical theory.

PHIL2645 Philosophy of Law

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Michael McDermott **Session:** Semester 1 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL2510, PHIL3510 **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2 hour exam

This unit looks at fundamental issues in the philosophy of law, including the role of law, civil liberties, legal obligation, punishment, responsibility and morality. It considers questions about whether or not a legal system is necessary, arguments for anarchy, and reasons for safeguarding freedoms from the force of law. It considers arguments for obedience to law, and seeks a moral justification of punishment. The discussion of practical issues in law leads to consideration of relation between law and morality. *Textbooks* Readings will be available from the University Copy Centre.

PHIL2646 Philosophy and Literature

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Justine McGill **Session:** Semester 2 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 junior credit points in Philosophy **Assessment:** One 2000 word essay, one 500 word tutorial paper and one 2 hour exam

This unit will examine the relationship between philosophy and literature. Is it necessary or incidental, a long and fecund marriage, or a patchy history of questionable affairs? Beyond the problem of identifying the two parties (what makes a text 'philosophical' or 'literary?'), the quality of their intercourse will be investigated: 1. by examining arguments for the philosophical significance of literature; 2. by exploring philosophical issues (eg. 'personal identity', 'time, memory and consciousness', 'freedom and determinism') through selected literary works.

PHIL2647 The Philosophy of Happiness

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Caroline West **Session:** Semester 2, Summer Main **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2000 word (take-home) exam.

We all want to be happy and to live a worthwhile life. But what is happiness? Why should we want it? And how do we get it? These are among the most fundamental questions of philosophy. We will evaluate the answers of major thinkers from ancient and modern and eastern and western traditions; and consider the implications of current psychological research into the causes of happiness for the question of how to live well, as individuals and as a society. *Textbooks* Readings available from the University Copy Centre.

PHIL2648 German Philosophy, Leibniz to Nietzsche

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Prof Paul Redding **Session:** Semester 2 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL2641, PHIL3011 **Assessment:** one 1000 word tutorial exercise, one 500 word essay outline and one 2500-3000 word final essay

This unit surveys German Philosophy from Leibniz via Kant and the German idealists to Nietzsche. The first half of the course examines the main aspects of Kant's "Copernican revolution" as a response to Leibniz's "monadology". The second half of the course examines extensions and transformations of Kant's philosophy by critical appropriators extending from Fichte to Nietzsche. Throughout, the philosophical views involved will be related more generally to questions of science, morals and politics, art, education, and religion. *Textbooks* Readings available from the University Copy Centre.



PHIL2649 The Classical Mind

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Michael McDermott **Session:** Semester 1
Classes: one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL2613, PHIL2614, PHIL3639 **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2 hour exam

An introduction to the philosophical outlook, conceptions, and arguments of Classical Greek philosophy. This unit will survey the rich period of Greek thinking from 600 BCE to the beginning of the Common Era, examining the Presocratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and Hellenistic philosophers. This unit will demonstrate the incredible originality of Greek philosophy, and reveal both its legacy in and differences from philosophy today.



PHIL2650 Logic and Computation

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr Nicholas Smith **Session:** Semester 2 **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** PHIL1012 or PHIL2628 or permission of instructor **Assessment:** two assignments and one 2 hour exam

This unit covers central results about the nature of logic, the nature of computation, and the relationships between the two. Topics treated include basic set theory, Turing machines, the theory of computability and uncomputability, the decision problem for first order logic, Tarski's theorem on the indefinability of truth, and Gödel's famous incompleteness theorem.

PHIL3618 Pre-Honours Seminar

Credit points: 6 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Prof David Braddon-Mitchell **Session:** Semester 1, Winter Main **Classes:** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Prerequisites:** 24 Senior credit points in Philosophy **Prohibitions:** PHIL2204, PHIL3204, PHIL3218 **Assessment:** one 4500 word essay (in two parts)

An introduction to major contemporary approaches to the discipline of philosophy, as represented within the department, and further afield. The aim of the unit of study is to prepare students for an Honours year in philosophy by acquainting them with both the practical and theoretical choices to be made in formulating and pursuing philosophical problems today. *Textbooks* Readings will be available from the University Copy Centre.

Honours

PHIL4011 Philosophy Honours A

Credit points: 12 **Teacher/Coordinator:** Dr John Grumley **Session:** Semester 1, Semester 2

Classes: two 2 hour seminars per week

Prerequisites: 48 credit points of Philosophy at Senior level, with a credit average or better, and including 6 credit points from each of the three programs (History of Philosophy; Epistemology, Metaphysics & Logic; Aesthetics, Ethics and Political Philosophy). Intending Honours students are strongly encouraged to discuss their unit choices with the Honours Coordinator at the beginning of their third year. The department places importance on the breadth of the philosophical education of its Honours graduates, and encourages intending Honours students to avoid over-specialisation at Senior level **Assessment:** a thesis of 12,000-15,000 words, 4,000-5,000 words of written work or its equivalent for each seminar and a 20 minute mini-conference presentation *Note: Department permission required for enrolment.*

The Honours program in Philosophy consists of:

1. a thesis written under the supervision of one or more members of academic staff
2. four seminars that meet weekly for two hours for one semester.

The thesis should be of 12,000-15,000 words in length. Each seminar requires 4,000-5,000 words of written work or its equivalent. The thesis is worth 40% of the final Honours mark and each of the seminars is worth 15%. The following seminars are on offer in 2010:

- Advanced Philosophy of Science (Prof Paul Griffiths)
- Cosmopolitanism and Community (Dr Thomas Besch)
- Metaphilosophy (Dr Adrian Heathcote)
- The Later Wittgenstein (Dr David Macarthur)
- Conceiving Responsibility (Dr Justine McGill)
- Sympathy (Dr Anik Waldow)
- Kant's Moral Philosophy (Prof Paul Redding)
- The Philosophy of "Mere" Life (Dr John Grumley)
- Ayer and Quine (Dr Michael McDermott)
- Scepticism (Dr Anik Waldow)

For more information, contact Dr John Grumley, Honours Coordinator.

PHIL4012 Philosophy Honours B

AS PHIL4011

PHIL4013 Philosophy Honours C

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PHIL4014 Philosophy Honours D

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Seminars

Semester 1

Advanced Philosophy of Science

Prof Paul Griffiths

The focus of this seminar is epistemic analysis of the various processes that might be thought to make up science: explaining phenomena, reducing one class of phenomena to another, formulating laws and theories and confirming those laws and theories. The seminar assumes familiarity with the classic philosophies of science of Popper and Lakatos, Kuhn and Feyerabend taught in most introductory philosophy of science courses (see e.g. Chalmers, A. F. (1999). *What is This Thing Called Science* (Third Edition). Queensland: University of Queensland Press.) Texts: Salmon, M. H., Earman, J., Glymour, C., Lennox, J. G., Machamer, P., McGuire, J. E., et al. (1992). *Introduction to the Philosophy of Science*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, plus selected articles and chapters from the research literature for each topic.

Cosmopolitanism and Community

Dr Thomas Besch

Should we think of our moral and political obligations as limited by our membership in particular communities? Should we define our conceptions of moral and political community according to particular cultural or national characteristics, or in terms of a shared common humanity? Do we have special obligations to our compatriots or general obligations to humanity as a whole? What is the relation between universal principles and local practices, and what are the consequences for our conceptions of practical reason? We shall explore these questions, and others, through an engagement with the arguments of leading contemporary moral and political philosophers.

Metaphilosophy

Dr Adrian Heathcote

The purpose of this seminar is to examine certain logical problems that permeate philosophy, but examine them at a higher level than is usually done. So this year I will be looking at use-mention problems that affect the theory of truth, identity and modal logic. A set of readings will be provided, starting with Quine's discussion of use-mention in his *Mathematical Logic*. Another important paper that students may wish to look at before the course begins is Quine's "The Problem of Interpreting Modal Logic" in the *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, 1947, pp. 43-8.

The Later Wittgenstein

Dr David Macarthur

Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations* (1953) is one of the classic works of philosophy in the twentieth century and yet, in many ways, it remains unavailable to contemporary philosophy. In this course we shall provide a reading of this work through three interesting and tempting misreadings: Peter Hacker's reading of Wittgenstein as a logical grammarian; Simon Blackburn's quasi-realist reading of the text; and Saul Kripke's treatment of Wittgenstein as a meaning skeptic. Topics covered include Wittgenstein's vision of language, rules, logic, metaphysics, understanding and meaning; as well as issues of the privacy and community. A central preoccupation will be to understand the power of Wittgenstein's therapeutic conception of philosophy.

Conceiving Responsibility

Dr Justine McGill

How shall we conceptualise moral responsibilities that individuals and institutions bear in relation to structural social and political problems to which they contribute by their actions, but which cannot be causally traced directly to these actions? We will investigate this question by comparing and contrasting several theories and concepts of moral and legal responsibility: philosophical theories of personal and collective responsibility, concepts of responsibility in tort and criminal law, and theories of shared, organisational and institutional responsibility.

Sympathy

Dr Anik Waldow

This unit will pursue the question of how it is possible for us to understand other persons' thoughts, desires and beliefs and how we connect emotionally with them. We will look at the early modern theories of Francis Hutcheson, David Hume and Adam Smith and examine the moral implications related to our ability to sympathise with one another. We will thereby gain valuable conceptual resources to create a better understanding of the contemporary debate about empathy. (Literature: Francis Hutcheson, *An Essay on the Nature and Conduct of the Passions and Affections. With Illustrations on the Moral Sense*. Dublin, 1728, edited by Aaron Garrett, Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 2003; David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, edited by L. A. Selby-Bigge. 2nd ed. revised by P. H. Niddich. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1978; Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, London, 1790, edited by Knud Haakonssen, Cambridge: University Press, 2007.)

Semester 2

Kant's Moral Philosophy

Prof Paul Redding

In this seminar we closely examine Immanuel Kant's *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*. Issues to be pursued will include: the place of this account of practical philosophy within the project of Kant's "transcendental idealism" as a whole; its relation to competing accounts of practical reason, both naturalistic and those of later idealists; and the problems facing a Kantian "moral psychology". Text: Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, trans. Mary Gregor (Cambridge UP, 1998).

The Philosophy of "Mere" Life

Dr John Grumley

The 21st century sees a profound reassessment of the meaning and value of life. As biomedical research and objectifying scientific and technical appropriation of nature grows; with the political and social crises attending processes of globalisation that question former international guarantees of human rights, conventions for the treatment of prisoners of war and asylum seekers, philosophers have been compelled to readdress the question of life and the right thereto: its cultural definition, value and meaning. The concepts of "corporeal" and "bare life" serve a range of thinkers to express the exclusions and human suffering that attend the dominant humanist discourse and signal resistance to its alleged illusions and crimes. This course will examine a range of thinkers both literary and philosophical — Coetzee, Sebald, Benjamin, Agamben, Foucault and Todorov — to fully explore the concept of "mere" life and its critique of humanism.

Ayer & Quine

Dr Michael McDermott

Analytic philosophy in the first half of the twentieth century was dominated by “Logical Positivism”. Its main doctrine was the “Verification Principle”, which (roughly speaking) identified the meaning of a statement with its consequences for experience. Analytic philosophy in the second half of the century was dominated by Quine. This seminar examines Quine’s philosophy, especially his attack on the concept of meaning presupposed by the Positivists.



Scepticism

Dr Anik Waldow

This unit will consider ancient, Renaissance and early-modern forms of scepticism and investigate the connections with modern scepticism. We shall be particularly concerned to discover the anti-dogmatic, belief-reconciling and moral implications of sceptical arguments. Our discussion will be centred around the question of whether and to which extent our ordinary epistemic practices rest on something we might call ‘rational faith’ and we will examine how this sort of belief can be distinguished from other species of (religious, dogmatic and superstitious) faith. (*Literature: Sextus Empiricus, Outlines of Scepticism*, ed. Julia Annas and Jonathan Barnes, Cambridge: University Press, 2007; Michele de Montaigne, *An Apology for Raymond Sebond*, Penguin, 1993; Rene Descartes, *Meditations and Other Metaphysical Writings*, trans. D. Clarke, Penguin)



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Academic coordinators

Enquiries relating to Undergraduate study, Honours or Postgraduate study should be directed to the appropriate Academic Coordinator. For further information please visit <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/philos/staff/coordinators.shtml>



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