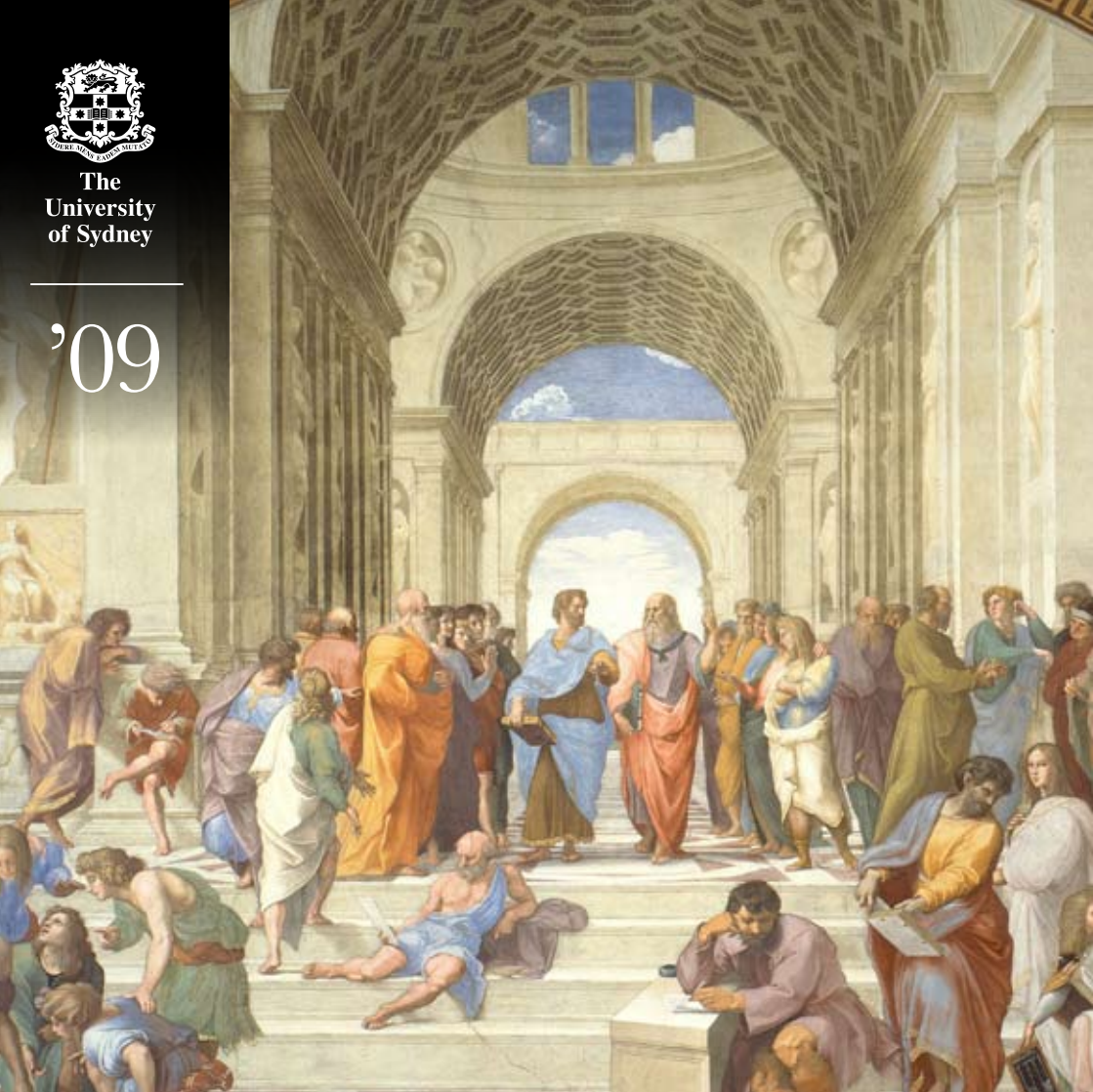




The
University
of Sydney

'09



Department of Philosophy

Student information guide
The University of Sydney



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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 2 March	Lectures begin
Fri 10 - Fri 17 April	Semester break
Fri 5 June	Last day of lectures
Mon 8 - Fri 12 June	Study vacation
Mon 15 - Sat 27 June	Examination period
Sat 27 June	Semester ends

Semester 2

Mon 27 July	Lectures begin
Mon 28 Sep - Fri 2 Oct	Semester break
Fri 30 Oct	Last day of lectures
Mon 2 - Fri 6 Nov	Study vacation
Mon 9 - Sat 21 Nov	Examination period
Sat 21 Nov	Semester ends

Student enquiries

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Why Study Philosophy?

Philosophy is a discipline that develops critical thinking, writing and reasoning skills while inquiring into fundamental questions about ourselves and the world. The department of Philosophy offers a wide range of units of study in the areas of: history of philosophy; epistemology, metaphysics and logic; and moral, social and political philosophy. Philosophy junior units are introductions to basic areas of philosophy. Senior units may then be taken from a pool of options; each option is worth 6 credit points, and 36 senior credit points constitutes a major in Philosophy. Suitably qualified students wishing to continue the study of philosophy at an advanced level can undertake Philosophy IV Honours.

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
- PHIL1012 Introductory Logic
- PHIL1013 Society, Knowledge and Self

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 your 12 junior credit points in philosophy includes 6 from PHIL1016 Mind and Morality HSC, you may apply for special permission to proceed to senior philosophy).

Senior units

The department offers three philosophy programs: History of Philosophy; Epistemology, Metaphysics and Logic; and Aesthetics, Ethics and Political Philosophy. The following units of study will be available in 2009; all are worth 6 credit points.

History of Philosophy program

- PHIL2600 Twentieth Century Philosophy
- PHIL2605 Locke and Empiricism
- PHIL2629 Descartes and Continental Philosophy
- PHIL2639 Heidegger's Phenomenology
- PHIL2648 German Philosophy: Leibniz to Nietzsche

Epistemology, Metaphysics and Logic program

- PHIL2610 Exploring Nonclassical Logic
- PHIL2615 Intermediate Logic
- PHIL2621 Truth, Meaning and Language
- PHIL2622 Reality, Time & Possibility: Metaphysics
- PHIL2627 Philosophy and Psychiatry
- PHIL2642 Critical Thinking
- PHIL2643 Philosophy of Mind
- PHIL3615 Pragmatism
- PHIL3622 Philosophy of Modern Physics

Aesthetics, Ethics and Political Philosophy program

- PHIL2617 Practical Ethics
- PHIL2618 Aesthetics and Art
- PHIL2623 Moral Psychology
- PHIL2632 Modernity in Crisis
- PHIL2634 Democratic Theory
- PHIL2635 Contemporary Political Philosophy
- PHIL2644 Critical Theory: From Marx to Foucault
- PHIL2645 Philosophy of Law
- PHIL2647 Philosophy of Happiness

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

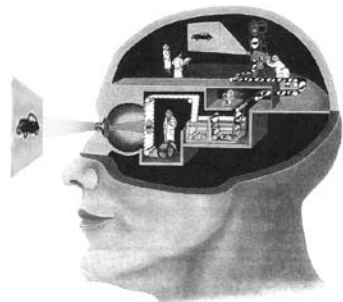
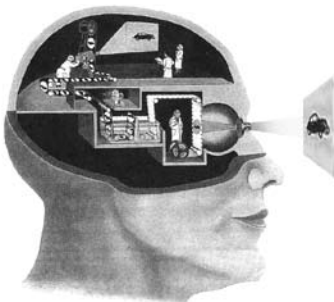
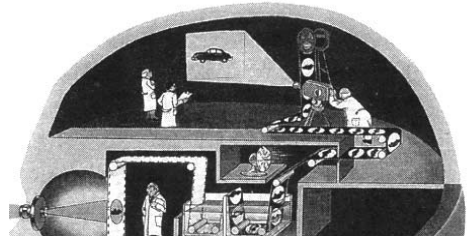
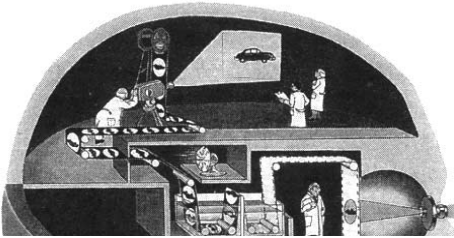
Designated units of study taught by other departments in the Faculty of Arts may be counted as part of a major in philosophy. The list of cross-listed units is available at http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/current_students/undergrad/crosslisted.shtml

Postgraduate study

The Faculty of Arts offers a wide range of coursework and research programs. For information about postgraduate study in Philosophy, please consult 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>



Units of Study 2009

Junior Units

PHIL1011 Reality, Ethics and Beauty

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Thomas Besch. **Prohibitions:** PHIL1003, PHIL1004, PHIL1006, PHIL1008. **Assessment:** tutorial participation, one 2000 word essay, one 2 hour exam. **Lectures (Learning Situations):** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Readings will be available from the University Copy Centre.

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.



PHIL1012 Introductory Logic

On Offer: Semester 2; Summer Late. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Nicholas Smith. **Assessment:** two assignments and one 2 hour exam. **Lectures (Learning Situations):** one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Girle, R. *Introduction to Logic*. Prentice Hall 2002.

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

On Offer: Semester 2. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Thomas Besch. **Prohibitions:** PHIL1010. **Assessment:** tutorial participation, one 2000 word essay, one 2 hour exam. **Lectures (Learning Situations):** two 1 hour lectures and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Readings will be available from the Copy Centre.

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.

Senior Units

PHIL2600 Twentieth Century Philosophy

On offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:** 6.

Coordinator: Dr Michael McDermott.

Prerequisites : 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitions:** PHIL2000.

Assessment: tutorial participation, one 2500 word essay, one 2 hour exam.

Lectures (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Ayer AJ. *Language, Truth and Logic*. London. Penguin 2001. Readings will be available from the University Copy Centre.

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.

PHIL2605 Locke and Empiricism

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:**

6. **Coordinator:** Dr Anik Waldow.

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.

Lectures (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **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).

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.



PHIL2610 Exploring Nonclassical Logic

On Offer: Semester 2. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Nicholas Smith. **Prerequisites:** 6 Junior credit points in Philosophy AND one of the following: PHIL1012 Introductory Logic OR PHIL2628 Elementary Logic OR MATH1004. **Prohibitons:** PHIL3214. **Assessment:** two assignments, one 2 hour exam. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial.

Classical logic is what you study in introductory units such as PHIL1012, PHIL2628 or MATH1004. This unit covers major extensions of and alternatives to classical logic, such as temporal, modal, intuitionist, relevance, and many-valued logics. As well as looking at the internal workings of these logics, we examine some of their applications, and the philosophical issues surrounding them.

PHIL2615 Intermediate Logic

On Offer: Semester 2. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Michael McDermott. **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy and PHIL1012 or PHIL2203 or PHIL2628. **Prohibitons:** PHIL2215, PHIL3215. **Assessment:** exam and weekly exercises. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.

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

On Offer: Semester 2. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Michael McDermott. **Prerequisites:** 12 junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitons:** PHIL2517. **Assessment:** one 2000 word essay and one 2500 word take-home exam. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Readings will be available from the University Copy Centre.

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.



PHIL2618 Aesthetics and Art

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:**

6. **Coordinator:** Dr David Macarthur.

Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitons:** PHIL2518.

Assessment: one 2500 word essay and one 2000 word take-home exam.

Lectures (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Readings include Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Tolstoy, Collingwood, Danto, Fried, and Cavell. These will be made available from the University Copy Centre.

Why is art important? What is an aesthetic response? Is there such a thing as objective interpretation? Or is it all a matter of taste? Should we believe in "the death of the author"? What is the relation between aesthetic criticism and philosophy? We shall discuss these and other questions from the perspective of an historical approach to the philosophical study of aesthetics and art.

PHIL2621 Truth, Meaning and Language

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:**

6. **Coordinator:** Dr Adrian Heathcote.

Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2 hour exam. **Lectures**

(Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.

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

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:**

6. **Coordinator:** Dr Kristie Miller.

Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Assessment:** one 2000 word essay and one 2500 word exam. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.

This is a unit 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 use philosophical methods to engage with questions like: What is time? What is space? What are the natures of possibility, freedom and identity? What is a cause, and what is a law of nature? Do we have free will? Does the world really exist - and what does "really" mean?

PHIL2623 Moral Psychology

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:** 6.

Coordinator: Dr Michael McDermott.

Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitons:** PHIL2513, PHIL3513. **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2000 word take-home exam. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Readings available from the University Copy Centre.

What is the ultimate good in life? What attitude should we take towards the good? Part I of the unit explores these questions. Part II investigates a range of causal explanations of moral behaviour. Has natural selection designed us to be moral creatures, or do we learn to be good? Part III turns to questions about the foundations of morality and the nature of moral judgements. The final part concerns the possible limits of morality.

PHIL2627 Philosophy and Psychiatry

On Offer: Semester 2. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Stephanie Winfield. **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitons:** PHIL2227. **Assessment:** two 2250 word essays. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Readings will be available from the University Copy Centre.

Can the concept 'mental illness' be a valid one? What might delusions tell us about the structure of the mind? What assumptions underlie attempts to classify mental disorder? Can we be justified in compelling people to submit to psychiatric treatment? This unit will examine philosophical questions raised by mental disorder and our attempts to understand/treat it, and will connect psychiatry to debates in philosophy such as the mind/body problem, the concept of a person, and the possibility of knowledge.

PHIL2629 Descartes and Continental Philosophy

On Offer: Semester 2. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Anik Waldow. **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitons:** PHIL2004, PHIL3004. **Assessment:** one 1000 word tutorial exercise, one 500 word essay plan, one 2500-3000 word essay. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **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, Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect and Selected Letters* (Hackett Paperback).

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 the mind/body question.

PHIL2632 Modernity in Crisis

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr John Grumley. **Prerequisites:** 12 junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitons:** PHIL2532, PHIL3532. **Assessment:** one 500 word tutorial paper, one 2000 word essay, one 2500 word take-home exam. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Readings will be available from the University Copy Centre.

This unit continues the themes developed in Theorising Modernity into the Twentieth Century. We will see how the new realities of free markets, democracy, the state and bureaucracy, individualism and cultural rationalisation presented new problems and opportunities and gave rise to new theoretical frameworks for their comprehension. The unit will focus on the work of Weber, The Frankfurt School, Foucault and Habermas.

PHIL2634 Democratic Theory

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Thomas Besch.

Prerequisites: 12 junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitons:** PHIL2514.

Assessment: one 2000 word essay and one 2500 word take-home exam.

Lectures (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.

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 democracy and justice, the tension between democracy and constitutionalism and the challenges of social and cultural pluralism. The unit will also consider the scope and limits of democracy, including the extension of democratic norms and institutions across national boundaries through international law and multinational institutions.

PHIL2635 Contemporary Political Philosophy

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Justine McGill.

Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitons:** PHIL3535, PHIL2535. **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2000 word take-home exam.

Lectures (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Kymlicka, W.

Introduction to Contemporary Political Philosophy, OUP, 2nd edition. Unit reader available from the Copy Centre.

A critical introduction to the major schools of thought in contemporary political philosophy, organised 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.

PHIL2639 Heidegger's Phenomenology

On Offer: Semester 2. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Prof Paul Redding.

Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitons:** PHIL2239.

Assessment: two 2250 word essays.

Lectures (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.

Textbooks: Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time* (trans. J. Macquarie & E. Robinson).

Heidegger famously asks what it means to be. We will attempt to determine what he means by this 'question of Being', concentrating on the first division of his work *Being and Time*, as well as the discussion of death and authenticity, and of temporality and everydayness, in the second division. Issues to be raised include Heidegger's critique of his teacher, Edmund Husserl, the relevance of Heidegger's work for cognitive science and whether Heidegger can be understood as an existentialist or a pragmatist — or neither.



PHIL2642 Critical Thinking

On Offer: Semester 2; Winter Main.

Credit Points: 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Luke

Russell. **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.

Lectures (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.

An introduction to critical thinking and the analysis of argument. Through examination of arguments drawn from a wide range of sources, including journalism, advertising, science, economics and politics, we will learn to distinguish good from bad arguments, and see why the good arguments are good and the bad ones bad. This makes the unit invaluable not only for philosophy students but for every student at the University. (The approach taken will be informal; very little symbolic notation will be used.)

PHIL2643 Philosophy of Mind

On Offer: Semester 2; Summer Late.

Credit Points: 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Michael

McDermott. **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitions:** PHIL2213, PHIL3213, PHIL2205.

Assessment: one essay and one take-home exam. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.

Textbooks: *The Philosophy of Mind and Cognition*, D. Braddon-Mitchell and F. Jackson, Blackwell, Oxford 1997.

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.

PHIL2644 Critical Theory: From Marx to Foucault

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr John Grumley.

Prerequisites: 12 junior credit points.

Assessment: one 2000 word essay, one 2000 word take-home exam, one 500 word tutorial paper. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.

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

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:** 6.

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Rick Benitez.

Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitions:** PHIL2510, PHIL3510. **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2 hour exam. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.

Textbooks: Readings will be available from the University Copy Centre.

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.



PHIL2647 The Philosophy of Happiness

On Offer: Semester 1; Summer Late; Winter Late. **Credit Points:**

6. **Coordinator:** Dr Caroline West.

Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points. **Assessment:** one 2500 word essay and one 2000 word (take-home) exam.

Lectures (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Readings available from the University Copy Centre.

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.



PHIL2648 German Philosophy, Leibniz to Nietzsche

On Offer: Semester 1. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Prof Paul Redding. **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. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** Readings available from the University Copy Centre.

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.

PHIL3615 Pragmatism

On Offer: Semester 2. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr David Macarthur. **Prerequisites:** 12 credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitions:** PHIL3015. **Assessment:** one 1000 word tutorial exercise, one 500 word essay outline, one 3000 word essay. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.

This unit will consider the emergence and recent developments of the distinctive philosophical outlook known as "American Pragmatism". We shall discuss various pragmatist approaches to central philosophical topics such as truth, mind, knowledge, logic, naturalism, apriority, and the fact/value distinction. A central theme will be the philosophical importance of the appeal to practice and the agent's point of view. Readings will include works by William James, C.S. Pierce, John Dewey, Robert Brandom, Donald Davidson, Hilary Putnam, and Richard Rorty.

PHIL3622 Philosophy of Modern Physics

On Offer: Semester 2. **Credit Points:** 6. **Coordinator:** Dr Adrian Heathcote. **Prerequisites:** 12 credit points in Philosophy. **Prohibitions:** PHIL3223. **Assessment:** exercises and one 2500 word essay. **Lectures** (Learning Situations): one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week. **Textbooks:** R.I.G. Hughes *The Structure and Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics*, Harvard Univ. Press; David Albert *Quantum Mechanics and Experience* Harvard Univ Press.

In this unit we will look at quantum mechanics, through a study of its central paradoxes: the EPR situation, Schrödinger's Cat, Wave-Particle duality, etc. We will work through the book by R.I.G. Hughes, using Albert's book for some additional material. The course will involve learning the mathematical basis for QM - though the level of mathematical sophistication required will not exceed ordinary high school mathematics. Relativity theory will be discussed only insofar as it bears upon the problem of interpreting quantum theory.

Philosophy Honours

Philosophy Honours gives students an opportunity to refine their thinking to a very high degree. Whereas the major provides a solid grounding in all the basic questions of philosophy, the honours degree introduces students to current research specialisation and practice. It is at once a capstone to the training provided in senior units and a preparation for postgraduate study. In Philosophy Honours, students participate in seminars and write a thesis. For the thesis, students work closely with a supervisor, who helps to bring their reflections and research into sharper focus.

The requirement for entry to Philosophy Honours is 48 senior credit points, with a credit average or better, and including at least 6 credit points from each of the three Philosophy programs.

For further information regarding Philosophy Honours please visit <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/philos/undergrad/honours.shtml>

PHIL4011 Philosophy Honours A

On Offer: Semester 1 & 2. **Credit Points:** 12. **Coordinator:** Prof Paul Redding. **Prerequisites:** 48 points of Philosophy at Senior level, with a credit average or better, and including 6 points from each of the three programs (History of Philosophy; Epistemology, Metaphysics & Logic; Aesthetics, Ethics & 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:** All of the major components of the Honours year will be assessed. **Lectures (Learning Situations):** Honours consists of a number of seminars, coursework and the completion of a substantial research thesis. For details please contact the Chair of Department or the Honours Coordinator.

PHIL4012 Philosophy Honours B

See PHIL4011

PHIL4013 Philosophy Honours C

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PHIL4014 Philosophy Honours D

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Honours seminars 2009

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.

Romanticism as Philosophy

Prof Paul Redding

Besides the romantic sensibility pervading many distinct areas of 19th Century European culture, a distinctly philosophical variant of romanticism has recently been acknowledged. This seminar examines versions of philosophical romanticism from the 1790s to the present, interpreting and evaluating them as responses to what has been perceived as the nihilistic consequences of a distinctly modern form of human subjective existence. The links of philosophical romanticism to the movements in the arts, politics, science and religion will be examined.

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.

Rights & Norms

Dr Justine McGill

If rights are universal and norms particular, then how should we understand the relation between them? Do social, cultural and political norms shape our understanding of rights? Should rights always be understood as universal and norms particular? This seminar will explore recent work on the justification of rights as well as criticisms of them. It will also examine case studies to do with Aboriginal rights and women's rights as well as explore the link between rights, cosmopolitanism and ideas of freedom.



On Toleration

Dr Thomas Besch

In recent political philosophy, toleration has received considerable attention. Yet even philosophers that agree that toleration matters often disagree about its nature, content, and methodological standing: some see it as an quality of practices and institutions, while others see it as something by which to govern our very thinking about political justification, reasoning, and justice. The seminar addresses a range of recent texts on the topic. It introduces students to contemporary ideas of toleration, their depth, aspirations and their limits.

Semester 2

Kant's Moral Philosophy

Prof Paul Redding

(Please note: may not be offered in 2009. Please check with the Honours coordinator.) 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 Metaphysic of Morals*, trans. Mary Gregor (Cambridge UP, 1998).

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.

Philosophical Naturalism

Dr David Macarthur

"Naturalism" — a slogan which signals a new relationship between philosophy and science — is the dominant philosophical movement in contemporary analytic philosophy; and it has played an important role in the history of continental philosophy e.g. the Methodenstreit of the late C19th. In this seminar we will discuss naturalism, anti-naturalism and supernaturalism. Key issues taken up include scientific method, the scientific image, the legitimacy of the human sciences, the "placement problems" of contemporary metaphysics and especially those concerning normativity.

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.

Academic Staff

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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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