Undergraduate Philosophy Subjects

**Autumn Session**
PHIL107 Values, Self and Knowledge
PHIL206 Practical Ethics
PHIL210 Contemporary European Philosophy (Not available in 2007)
PHIL256/258 Ethics & the Environment
PHIL286 Philosophy of Social Science
PHIL288 Philosophy of Mind
PHIL310 Advanced Applied Ethics
PHIL313 Advanced Theoretical Ethics
PHIL314 Advanced Topics in the Philosophy of Mind

**Spring Session**
PHIL106 Media Ethics and Law
PHIL151 Practical reasoning
PHIL209 Logic (Not available in 2007)
PHIL232 Political Philosophy (Not available in 2007)
PHIL255 Philosophy of Language
PHIL262 Theories of Knowledge and Metaphysics
PHIL284 Theoretical Ethics
PHIL309 Knowledge & Language
PHIL363 Philosophy of Feminism
PHIL380 Bioethics
PHIL390 Contemporary Political Philosophy (Not available in 2007)

**Summer Session**
PHIL211 Greek Philosophy

**Philosophy Honours**
PHIL106 Media Ethics & Law

Session(s) on offer: Spring
Method of Delivery: Lectures & tutorials
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 6
Pre-Requisites(s): none
Co-Requisite(s): none
Equivalent Subject(s): none
Textbook or Learning Package: Reader prepared by lecturer
Subject Coordinator: David Neil

Subject Content
This subject examines a range of ethical issues raised by contemporary media. We will survey media regulation in Australia and consider whether the existing regulatory framework is adequate to protect the public interest with regard to the issues examined. Topics covered include: privacy, defamation and vilification, free speech and censorship, representations of sex and violence, truth, lies and ‘spin’, war reporting, the role of the media in a democracy, the concentration of media ownership, commercialisation, advertising ethics, body image, the nature of celebrity, spectacle, voyeurism and the trivialisation of popular culture.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. Understand some of the central debates and controversies in media ethics, and be able to formulate a considered, informed and coherent position with regard to those debates.
2. Critically analyse ethical and legal implications of media practice.
3. Describe the principal regulatory institutions governing the Australian media, and critically comment on the adequacy of those institutions.
4. Understand and use central concepts relevant to media ethics, such as privacy and freedom of speech.
5. Demonstrate increased sophistication in awareness of persuasive techniques used in contemporary media.
6. Produce clear and cogent arguments verbally.
7. Produce clear and cogent arguments in writing.

Assessment Tasks
Tutorial participation 10%
Short paper (500 words) 10%
Essay (1500 words) 40%
Exam 40%
PHIL107 Values, Self and Knowledge

Session(s) on offer: Autumn
Method of Delivery: Lectures & tutorials
Location: Wollongong campus
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 6
Pre-Requisites(s): none
Co-Requisite(s): none
Equivalent Subject(s): none
Textbook or Learning Package: Reader prepared by lecturers
Subject Coordinator: David Simpson

Subject Content
This subject introduces fundamental philosophical problems in ethical theory, metaphysics and epistemology. In the first 4 weeks we examine the nature of ethics, focussing on the question of whether there are objective ethical facts, or whether ethical beliefs are inherently subjective or culturally relative. The second part of the subject examines the nature of personal identity. What is the self? Are we one and the same person throughout our lives? The final section looks at theories of knowledge. What is knowledge? Can we ever be certain of our beliefs? Do we need to be?

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate, verbally, acquaintance with some basic positions in ethics, metaphysics and epistemology.
2. Demonstrate, in writing, acquaintance with some basic positions in ethics, metaphysics and epistemology.
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the role of conceptual analysis, reasoning and consistency in philosophical argument.
4. Research, produce and reference and essay in a format appropriate for a philosophy essay.
5. Identify some points of contention in the arguments introduced in the subject.
6. Demonstrate some of the basic conceptual skills required to read and understand philosophy texts.

Assessment Method
Tutorial participation 10%
Essay planning task (500 words) 10%
Essay (1500 words) 40%
Exam 40%
PHIL151 Practical Reasoning

Session(s) on offer: Spring
Method of Delivery: Lectures, practical groups, and on-line.
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 6
Pre-Requisites(s): None
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): PHIL153, PHIL253, PHIL214
Textbook or Learning Package: Subject text/workbook
Subject Coordinator: John Burgess

Subject Content

This subject is an introduction to the informal study of reasoning and argument. We shall look at the standards of argument and patterns of reasoning we employ in everyday situations: reading, studying, discussing, debating, and so on. We shall consider ways in which arguments can be convincing without being valid (and valid without being convincing). We shall look briefly at the way in which language functions and apply what we learn to explain how many of the 'dirty tricks' we encounter in arguments work. We shall also consider some of the methods of reasoning employed in the law and in the natural and social sciences. Topic areas are: Inductive and deductive logic; meaning and definition; informal fallacies; inductive reasoning.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the major kinds of logical reasoning in everyday use – inductive and deductive arguments – and display an ability to distinguish good from bad arguments of these kinds
2. Demonstrate a grasp of the most commonly encountered kinds of definition and understand the purposes for which they are useful
3. Demonstrate an ability to recognise the structure of, and to critically analyse, sustained arguments encountered in everyday life
4. Display an understanding of the principles that govern practical problem solving and an ability to apply those principles to the solution of everyday problems.

Assessment method

3 In-class tests 40%
Exam 60%
PHIL206 Practical Ethics
Session(s) on offer: Autumn
Method of Delivery Lecture/seminar & tutorials
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): 36 credit points
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): None
Textbook or Learning Package: Reader compiled by lecturer
Subject Coordinator: David Neil

Subject content
Practical Ethics begins with an introduction to consequentialist and rights-based approaches to applied ethics. A key theme throughout the subject is the ethics of risk – for instance, how should we assess the acceptability of the risks presented by radical new technologies? This conceptual framework will be used to examine a range of controversial social / political issues, including: genetic preselection and eugenics, human rights and multiculturalism, civil rights and the scope of individual freedom, advertising to children, drugs, war and terrorism, nanotechnology, commodification of human tissues, surrogacy and globalisation.

Learning outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. Understand utilitarian and rights-based approaches to ethical theory and the basic differences between these approaches.
2. Be able to apply fundamental ethical principles to the analysis of a range of concrete issues.
3. Articulate, both orally and in writing, some currently influential arguments with respect to the issues examined.
4. Research and construct a critical argument in essay form, in response to a socially important ethical dilemma.
5. Demonstrate improved understanding of complex and socially important problems.
6. Ability to engage in lucid, informed and productive ethical argument with peers.

Assessment Tasks
Seminar participation 10%
Seminar presentation 10%
Essay (2500 words) 40%
Essay (2500 words) 40%
PHIL209 Logic

Session(s) on offer: Not available in 2007
Method of Delivery: Lectures & practical class
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): Any 36 credit points
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): None
Textbook or Learning Package: Logic Primer, by Colin Allen and Michael Hand
Lecture Notes
Subject Coordinator: John Burgess

Subject content
An introduction to the methods and techniques of formal logic and to the central issues in philosophical logic that concern the connections between reasoning in natural languages and reasoning in formal languages. Topics include: proof in propositional and predicate logic, the interpretation of propositional and predicate logic, soundness and completeness of propositional logic, the adequacy of formal logic to model reasoning in natural language.

Learning outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate understanding of the basic principles of deductive logic.
2. Translate between ordinary language and the languages of classical propositional and classical predicate logic.
3. Construct proofs of validity in classical propositional logic and classical predicate logic.
4. Test for validity and invalidity in classical propositional logic.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the place of formal logic in philosophy and of its role as a tool in formulating and understanding philosophical arguments.

Assessment Tasks
3 In-Class Tests 40%
Exam 60%
PHIL210 Contemporary European Philosophy

Session(s) on offer: Not available in 2007
Method of Delivery: Lectures/seminars
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): 36 credit points, including 6 credit points of PHIL
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): None
Textbook or Learning Package: TBC
Subject Coordinator: David Simpson

Subject Content
An introduction to some of the main themes and thinkers in contemporary European philosophy, especially those that have had an impact on philosophers outside Europe. We will explore issues such as: language, interpretation and meaning; existence and being; power and knowledge, intersubjectivity and difference; time and death; phenomenology. We will explore these themes through the work of writers such as: Foucault, Irigaray, Deleuze, Kristeva, Derrida, Levinas, Gadamer, Nietzsche, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Ricoeur, Lyotard, Heidegger, de Beauvoir and Sartre.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate, orally and in writing, acquaintance with one or more themes in contemporary European philosophy, and with a range of works by contemporary European philosophers.
2. Research, produce, and reference an essay in a format appropriate for a Philosophy essay.
3. Engage in Philosophical debate while demonstrating an understanding of the distinctive features of such debate.
4. Demonstrate, orally and in writing, an appreciation of the emphasis placed in Philosophy on the value of argument and the role of reasons, and be able to identify key arguments relevant to the to those aspects of contemporary European philosophy
5. Accurately use key concepts relevant to the areas of philosophy and authors studied in the subject.

Assessment Methods
Seminar Participation 10%
Reading Journal 10%
Essay (3000 words) 40%
Take home exam 40%
PHIL211 Greek Philosophy

Session(s) on offer: Summer
Method of Delivery: Lectures/seminars
Contact Hours per week: 6 hours
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): At least 18 cp
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): PHIL311
Textbook or Learning Package: tba
Subject Coordinator: David Simpson

Subject content

PHIL211 introduces philosophy through the careful critical reading of the works of some Ancient Greek Philosophers, especially Plato. We begin by introducing the cosmologies of the Pre-Socratics, then analyse Socrates' famous paradoxes and his style of argumentation. In the remainder of the subject we will either focus in more detail on one or more of the texts of Plato, or take up some of the work of Aristotle. In focussing on Plato, Students examine and assess Plato's theory of the just state, the just person and justice for women, the nature of knowledge, the aims of education, the best sort of government, the nature of art and thought, and the proper roles of philosophers in society. No prior knowledge of philosophy or ancient history is required.

Learning outcomes

On Successful completion of this subject, a student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate, orally and in writing, an understanding of the central aspects of some major texts in classical Greek philosophy, and the relationship between those issues and contemporary issues in Philosophy;
2. research, produce, and reference an essay in a format appropriate for a Philosophy essay;
3. engage in Philosophical debate while demonstrating an good understanding of the distinctive features of such debate;
4. demonstrate, orally and in writing, an appreciation of the emphasis placed in Philosophy on the value of argument and the role of reasons.

Assessment tasks

1. Seminar contribution 10%
2. Seminar paper (1000 words) 10%
3. Essay (2500 words) 40%
4. Essay/exam (2500 words) 40%
PHIL232 Political Philosophy

Session(s) on offer: Not available in 2007
Method of Delivery: Lectures/seminars
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): At least 36 cp
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): PHIL332, PHIL257, PHIL357, POL214, POL314, PHIL383

Textbook or Learning Package: tba
Subject Coordinator: Susan Dodds

Subject content
An introduction to some key concepts and theories in political philosophy through a critical reading of some important historical texts. Throughout the subject we will identify themes in the history of political philosophy which have contemporary significance and will evaluate the arguments put forward by various political philosophers for different understandings of the nature and justification of the state, political authority, citizenship, political rights, civic participation, governance and the normative basis for state authority.

Learning outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, a student will be able to: Critically discuss some major figures in the history of political philosophy and identify the impact of their approaches in contemporary debates; identify the broader philosophical significance of debates within political philosophy; identify the philosophical presuppositions and implications of different understandings of the nature and justification of the state, political authority, citizenship, political rights, civic participation, governance and the normative basis for state authority; engage in critical debate about central ideas in political philosophy.

Assessment tasks
1. Seminar contribution 10%
2. Seminar paper (1000 words) 10%
3. Bibliographic review (2000 words) 40%
4. Essay (3000 words) 40%
PHIL255 Philosophy of Language

Session(s) on offer: Spring
Method of Delivery: Lectures/seminars
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): 36 credit points, including 6 credit points of PHIL
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): PHIL355
Textbook or Learning Package: Reader
Subject Coordinator: David Simpson

Subject Content
This subject provides an introduction to some of the central themes in the philosophy of language, in which we explore various historical and contemporary attempts to develop a viable theory of meaning. Questions that will arise include: how is it that some marks and sounds have meaning?, how is it that people can communicate?, how should we deal with phenomena such as metaphor?, what is the relationship between meaning and context?, and are there such things as meanings?

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate, orally and in writing, acquaintance with the central themes in the philosophy of language.
2. Research, produce, and reference an essay in a format appropriate for a Philosophy essay.
3. Engage in Philosophical debate while demonstrating an understanding of the distinctive features of such debate.
4. Demonstrate, orally and in writing, an appreciation of the emphasis placed in Philosophy on the value of argument and the role of reasons, and be able to identify key arguments relevant to the to those aspects of meaning.
5. Accurately use key concepts relevant to the areas of philosophy and authors studied in the subject.

Assessment Tasks
Seminar Participation 10%
Reading Journal 10%
Essay (3000 words) 40%
Take-home Exam (2500 words) 40%
PHIL256/258 Ethics and the Environment

Session(s) on offer: Autumn
Method of Delivery: Lectures & tutorials
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 6 (PHIL256) 8 (PHIL258)
Pre-Requisites(s): At least 36 cp
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): Students cannot take both PHIL256 & PHIL258
Textbook or Learning Package: tba
Subject Coordinator: John Burgess

Subject content
A study of evaluative issues concerning the environment. Provides a grounding in debates about, for example, our obligations to non-human animals; whether wilderness areas have value independently of their value to humans; the problem of overpopulation and the question of our obligations to the 3rd world and to future generations; the value of biodiversity. This subject can also be taken as an 8 credit point subject, PHIL258, which shares lectures and tutorials, but has different assessment, reflecting the extra 2 credit points.

Learning outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, a student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate, orally and in writing, an ability to understand the issues in dispute in a range of complex moral problems concerning the environment.
2. Understand why there is a widespread belief that there is an environmental crisis and will appreciate the peculiar challenge to orthodox theoretical ethics this crisis has created.
3. Apply logic and reason in the defence of their views on these problems and to appreciate the theoretical implications of both their own position and those of opposed views.
4. Engage in distinctively philosophical debate about these problems.
5. Research, produce and reference essays in a format appropriate for a philosophy essay.

Assessment tasks
1. Tutorial contribution 10%
2. Seminar paper (1000 words) 10%
3. Essay (1500 words) 30%
4. Exam 50%
PHIL262 Theories of Knowledge & Metaphysics

Session(s) on offer: Spring
Method of Delivery: Lectures/seminars
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): At least 36 cp, including 6 cp of PHIL
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): PHIL322
Textbook or Learning Package: tba
Subject Coordinator: David Simpson

Subject content
An examination of attempts to answer the central questions in the theory of knowledge and of the metaphysical implications of those attempts. The questions addressed include: What is knowledge?; Is knowledge possible? (the challenge of scepticism); Is knowledge different from information?; Is a normative epistemology possible or desirable?. We will discuss, e.g. debates over internalism and externalism, realism and anti-realism, descriptive and revisionary metaphysics.

Learning outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, a student will be able to:
1. Critically discuss the main competing theories in contemporary epistemology and relate these theories to current issues of debate in metaphysics;
2. demonstrate familiarity with the philosophical implications of terms or expressions like: realism and irrealism; reasonable belief and scepticism; empiricism and rationalism; foundationalism and coherentism; the definition of knowledge; externalism and internalism; knowledge of other minds; epistemic privilege; moral scepticism and moral realism/irrealism;
3. identify the broader philosophical significance of debates in epistemology and metaphysics;
4. demonstrate a developed ability to reason and analyse, and write philosophy.

Assessment tasks
1. Seminar contribution 10%
2. Reading journal 10%
3. Essay (3000 words) 40%
4. Take-home exam (2500 words) 40%
PHIL284 Theoretical Ethics

Session(s) on offer: Spring
Method of Delivery: Lectures/seminars
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): At least 36 cp, including 6 cp of PHIL
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): PHIL301
Textbook or Learning Package: tba
Subject Coordinator: Susan Dodds

Subject content
A critical study of fundamental issues in moral philosophy. Among the topics discussed will be a selection of the following: Moral relativism; subjectivist and objectivist theories of morality; facts and values; moral realism; consequentialism; moral motivation; egoism and altruism; morality and rationality.

Learning outcomes
On completion of this subject a student will be able to:
1. Critically discuss the main competing theories in metaethics and normative ethics.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with the philosophical implications of terms like descriptivism, expressivism, consequentialism and deontology.
3. Identify the broader philosophical significance of debates in theoretical ethics.
4. Demonstrate a developed ability to reason and write about theoretical issues in ethics.

Assessment tasks
Seminar contribution (10%)
Seminar paper (10%)
Essay (40%)
Take-home test (40%)
PHIL288 Philosophy of Mind

Session(s) on offer: Autumn
Method of Delivery: Lectures/seminars
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): At least 36 cp, including 6 cp of PHIL
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): PHIL351
Textbook or Learning Package: tba
Subject Coordinator: David Simpson

Subject content
Examines contemporary issues in one or more of the following areas: metaphysics of mind (dualism, mind-body identity, functionalism, etc.); theories of intention and agency; explanations of irrationality (such as divided mind accounts of self-deception and weakness of will); theories of emotion (its nature, epistemology and role in moral psychology); self-knowledge and first-person authority.

Learning objectives
On completion of this subject a student will be able to:
1. Critically discuss the main competing theories in the area.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with the philosophical implications of terms like dualism, materialism, functionalism, and desire-belief psychology.
3. Identify the broader philosophical significance of debates in the theory of mind and action.
4. Demonstrate a developed ability to reason and write philosophy.

Assessment tasks
Seminar contribution 10%
Reading journal 10%
Essay (3000 words) 40%
Take-home exam (2500 words) 40%
PHIL309 Knowledge and Language

Session(s) on offer: Spring
Method of Delivery: Seminars
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): At least 16 credit points of 200 level PHIL, including PHIL255 or PHIL262 or PHIL322 or PHIL355.
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): None
Textbook or Learning Package: TBC
Subject Coordinator: David Simpson

Subject Content

This subject provides the opportunity to engage at an advanced level with central issues and texts in contemporary philosophy of language, the theory of knowledge, and the intersection of those two areas. Regarding the philosophy of language, we will take up key themes such as the metaphysics of meaning, theories of interpretation, the analysis of tropes, the role of context in the use of language, holism, and the concept of truth. In the theory of knowledge, we will consider issues such as scepticism, externalism, the relationship between mind and world, the concept of evidence, fallibility, and certainty.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:

1. Recognize the significance of positions in the theory of knowledge and the philosophy of language for other areas of philosophy.
2. Critically deploy and analyse concepts relevant to the theory of knowledge and the philosophy of language.
3. Critically assess competing approaches to issues in the theory of knowledge and the philosophy of language.
4. Develop and defend advanced arguments concerning debates in the theory of knowledge and the philosophy of language.

Assessment Tasks

1. Seminar participation 10%
2. Seminar paper (1000 words) 10%
3. Essay (3000 words) 40%
4. Take home exam (2500 words) 40%
PHIL310 Advanced Applied Ethics

Session(s) on offer: Autumn
Method of Delivery: Seminars
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): 16 credit point of 200 level PHIL subjects including either PHIL206 or PHIL256 or PHIL258 or PHIL284 or PHIL301 or PHIL380
Co-Requisite(s): none
Equivalent Subject(s): none
Textbook or Learning Package: e-readings/reader
Subject Coordinator: Susan Dodds

Subject Content
Advanced Applied Ethics involves a critical examination of a range of applied ethics issues. It provides students who have already been introduced to ethical theory or applied ethics with a more sophisticated understanding of current debates about: methodology; critical responses to public policy in areas of social controversy; and the ethical evaluation of emerging technologies such as nanotechnology, genetic engineering. Throughout this subject attention is paid to the interaction of theory and practical application: the influence of theory on practice, and the use of practical issues to test the plausibility of ethical theory.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. recognise the significance of particular ways of responding to debates in applied ethics
2. critically deploy and analyse concepts relevant to applied ethics
3. critically assess competing approaches to issues and arguments in applied ethics
4. develop and defend more advanced arguments concerning relevant debates, issues and concepts of applied ethics
5. develop skills in the application of philosophical theory to practical issues and situations.

Assessment Tasks
Seminar presentation 10%
Seminar participation 10%
Critical Essay (2500 words) 40%
Research Essay (3500 words) 40%
PHIL313 Advanced Theoretical Ethics

Session(s) on offer: Autumn
Method of Delivery: Seminars
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): 16 credit point of 200 level PHIL subjects including PHIL284
Co-Requisite(s): none
Equivalent Subject(s): none
Textbook or Learning Package: tba
Subject Coordinator: Susan Dodds

Subject Content
This subject provides an advanced exploration of some key issues in contemporary theoretical ethics and metaethics through close examination of works of major theorists. This subject develops understanding of current debates in ethical theory to an advanced level by close reading of and critical engagement with major works in the area. Examples of works to be studied in this subject could include substantial sections of Thomas Scanlon’s *What We Owe Each Other*, Annette Baier’s *Moral Prejudices: Essays on Ethics*, Simon Blackburn’s *Ruling Passions*, John McDowell’s *Mind, Value and Reality*, or Martha Nussbaum’s *Upheavals of Thought: the intelligence of emotions*.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. recognise the significance of particular ways of responding to current debates in ethical theory and/or metaphysics
2. critically deploy and analyse concepts relevant to ethical theory and metaethics
3. critically assess competing approaches to relevant issues or arguments in ethical theory
4. develop and defend more advanced arguments concerning the relevant debates, issues and concepts in ethical theory

Assessment Tasks
Seminar participation 10%
Seminar presentation 10%
Preliminary essay (2500 words) 35%
Final Essay (3500 words) 45%
PHIL314 Advanced Topics in the Philosophy of Mind

Session(s) on offer: Autumn
Method of Delivery: Seminars
Location: Wollongong
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): At least 16 credit points of PHIL at 200 level, including PHIL288 or PHIL351
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): None
Textbook or Learning Package: Reader
Subject Coordinator: David Simpson

Subject Content
We will examine, at an advanced level, topics and texts that are of central importance and impact in the contemporary philosophy of mind. We will explore questions such as: how could consciousness have evolved?, can consciousness be studied scientifically?, can consciousness be ignored in an account of mind?, could minds be brought about in machines?, are reasons causes?, what is the status of folk psychology?

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate, orally and in writing, sophisticated acquaintance with contemporary issues and texts in the philosophy of mind.
2. Recognize the significance of discussion in the philosophy of mind for other areas of philosophy.
3. Critically deploy and analyse concepts relevant to the philosophy of mind.
4. Critically assess competing approaches to issues in the philosophy of mind.
5. Develop and defend more advanced arguments concerning issues in the philosophy of mind.

Assessment Tasks
1. Seminar Participation 10%
2. Seminar paper 1000 words 10%
3. Essay (3000 words) 40%
4. Take home exam (2500 words) 40%
PHIL363 Philosophy of Feminism

Session(s) on offer: Spring
Method of Delivery: Seminars
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): 16 credit point of 200 level PHIL subjects including either PHIL206 Applied Ethics or PHIL232 Political Philosophy
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): PHIL260
Textbook or Learning Package: Reader and e-readings
Subject Coordinator: Susan Dodds

Subject Content
Philosophy of Feminism examines some key concepts and issues in feminist philosophy, examining the relationships between feminism and philosophy. Explores analytical and ethical issues which arise in feminist philosophy and the ways these issues divide feminists, through exploration of the ways the following topics arise in feminist theories: difference; rationality and reasoning; subjectivity, autonomy and agency; the Body; moral reasoning, justice and interdependence; public/private distinctions or civic/domestic divisions; citizenship and access to social goods.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. recognise the significance of particular ways of responding to debates in feminist philosophy
2. critically deploy and analyse concepts relevant to philosophy of feminism
3. critically assess competing approaches to issues and arguments in feminism
4. develop and defend more advanced arguments concerning relevant debates, issues and concepts of philosophy of feminism
5. develop skills in the application of philosophical theory to practical issues and situations concerning gender and justice.

Assessment Tasks
Seminar presentation 10%
Seminar participation 10%
Critical Essay (2500 words) 35%
Research Essay (3500 words) 45%
PHIL380 Bioethics

Session(s) on offer: Spring
Method of Delivery: Lectures & tutorial
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): Any 36 credit points
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): None
Textbook or Learning Package: Book of Readings
Subject Coordinator: John Burgess

Subject Content
Philosophical examination of a range of important bioethical problems. We will explore such topics as: euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide; reproduction technology (e.g. IVF, cloning); anonymous donor programs; genetic counselling, screening and testing; definitions of life and death, allocation of health resources; organ transplantation; embryo and foetal research; genetic engineering, experimentation involving human subjects; research involving animals; the role of ethics committees; the nature of professional ethics.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate orally and in writing an acquaintance with several important bioethical debates and with the contributions to those debates of several important authors. Demonstrate an awareness of the importance of bioethical issues to contemporary society.
2. Research, produce and reference and essay in a format appropriate to a philosophy essay.
3. Engage actively in bioethical debate and demonstrate an understanding of the distinctive features of philosophical debate.
4. Demonstrate, orally and in writing, an appreciation of the emphasis placed in philosophy on the value of arguments and the role of reasons and display an awareness of key arguments in bioethics.
5. Accurately identify and use key philosophical concepts employed in the bioethic literature.

Assessment Tasks
1. Seminar participation 10%
2. Seminar paper (1,000 words) 10%
3. Essay (3,000 words) 40%
4. Take home exam 40%
PHIL390 Contemporary Political Philosophy

Session(s) on offer: Not available in 2007
Method of Delivery: Seminars
Contact Hours per week: 3
Credit Points: 8
Pre-Requisites(s): At least 16 cp in PHIL at 200 level, or 8 cp in PHIL at 200 level, plus POL213
Co-Requisite(s): None
Equivalent Subject(s): None
Textbook or Learning Package: tba
Subject Coordinator: Susan Dodds

Subject content
Contemporary political philosophy offers an examination of some key themes in contemporary political philosophy: Citizenship and multiculturalism; Justice, Well-being and Human Rights; Nationalism; Democracy, Representation, Sovereignty and Legitimacy. In particular it draws on works within feminist theory, European social and political philosophy, communitarian approaches, and postcolonial theorists in demonstrating challenges to contemporary liberal philosophical approaches to those themes.

Learning outcomes
On successful completion of this subject, a student will be able to:
1. Critically discuss some major debates in contemporary political philosophy and identify their significance;
2. Identify the key arguments in debates about: Citizenship and Multiculturalism; Justice, Well-being and Human Rights; Nationalism; Democracy, Sovereignty and Legitimacy;
3. Identify some of the philosophical presuppositions and implications of ideas of atomism, individualism, holism, collectivism, universalism, particularism, and identity;
4. Engage in critical debate about central ideas in contemporary political philosophy.

Assessment tasks
1. Seminar contribution 10%
2. Seminar paper (1000 words) 10%
3. Bibliographic review (2500 words) 40%
4. Essay (3500 words) 40%
Philosophy Honours

Honours can be taken as PHIL411 (full-time), PHIL412 (part-time), PHIL421 (combined honours with another discipline), and PHIL422 (combined honours, part-time). The content of combined honours programs will be negotiated between Philosophy and the relevant second discipline.

Session(s) on offer: Autumn; Spring
Method of Delivery: One-to-one supervision & seminars
Contact Hours per week: 4 hours contact per week
Credit Points: 48
Pre-Requisites(s): Admission into Honours program; major in philosophy with an average of at least 70% and at least two distinctions in 300-level philosophy subjects.
Co-Requisite(s): none
Assumed Knowledge: Major in Philosophy
Equivalent Subject(s): None
Textbook or Learning Package: Refer Philosophy Program
Subject Coordinator: Dr David Simpson

Subject Content

The Honours program is designed to provide good philosophy students with a strong grounding in philosophy that prepares them for post-graduate research. The Honours program consists of 50% thesis (approximately 15,000 words examined by one internal and one external examiner) and 50% coursework comprising 3 components:

1. an honours seminar on a particular issue in contemporary philosophy (the topic will be selected to reflect the research strengths of the program and the current cohort of Honours students);
2. an advanced seminar on philosophical argument and thesis-writing;
3. a directed reading subject on an area related to each student’s thesis topic.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:

1. Engage, at an advanced level, with contemporary debates in an area of philosophy
2. Develop an research proposal, engage in philosophical research and articulate philosophical argument at a sophisticated level
3. Develop an original argument on an area of philosophy
4. Critically defend an argument in philosophy in writing and orally

Assessment Tasks

1. Honours Seminar participation and presentations 16.6%
2. Thesis proposal/ draft outline and skills assessment 16.6%
3. Honours elective essay (6,000 words) 16.6%
4. Honours thesis (15,000 words) 50%