

Master of Arts (Professional and Applied Ethics)

1 Background

The existing Master of Arts (Applied Ethics) Coursework and Minor Thesis degree is being replaced by a revised degree that includes changes to the names and content of the two 'core' subjects, and some changes in the subjects offered, in order to allow it to be included in a proposed co-ordinated suite of such degrees offered at each of the three CAPPE nodes (UM, Charles Sturt, and Australian National University). Students will receive a degree from their 'home' university, and will be able to do electives, and the minor thesis, at the other CAPPE nodes.

CAPPE is an ARC Special Research Centre involving a partnership between three universities, University of Melbourne, Australian National University and Charles Sturt University. Reflecting recommendations by the ARC in its recent review of CAPPE, the University is moving in the direction of a greater integration of post-graduate teaching programs. A key element of this strategy is the development of a co-ordinated suite of coursework Masters degrees offered at each of the three CAPPE nodes. In the first instance this will involve the existing Masters degrees offered at UM and ANU. CSU will increase the number of Distance Education subjects it makes available to UM and ANU as part of these degrees. This strategy draws on the complementary strengths of the three partners in CAPPE. The proposed Masters represents a step towards CAPPE achieving financial independence when its ARC funding expires at the end of 2008. The continued existence of a research centre enjoying a high international reputation and coordinated with other such centres fits well the University's strategic goals associated with research excellence.

The proposed suite of Masters will capitalise on the diverse teaching strengths of each of the participating institutions, offering a wider choice of subjects and academic resources than is currently available, making our courses more attractive to local and international full-fee paying students. This proposal involves:

- Avoiding duplication of subject offerings at each of the three universities, and therefore reducing the number of subjects offered at each university;
- Tailoring subject offerings to reflect the specific research and staffing strengths at each university
- Making subjects available in a variety of delivery modes, including enhanced Distance Education mode.
- Credit transfer across the three universities in relation to subject offerings.
- Integrated national and international marketing strategy, highlighting the concentration of world-renowned applied philosophers who will teach subjects in these degrees, and the innovative and flexible modes of delivery of subjects.
- Enabling CAPPE to build on existing international research and teaching partnerships (notably CAPPE's DEST funded EU/Australia Cooperation in Higher Education grant), to develop a global integrated suite of Master's degrees with overseas institutional partners, involving credit transfer and student mobility.

2 Course/Program Objectives

Students who have completed this program will:

- Have developed an understanding of the fundamentals of philosophical argumentation and theory;
- Be able to demonstrate a substantial knowledge of one or more areas in the study of professional and applied ethics;
- Understand the theoretical sources of the key concepts in these areas of study;
- Understand the application of these concepts to their professional field or study area;

- Have developed research and analysis skills to enable further study in the area of applied ethics at a higher academic level;
- Present theories and arguments concisely and critically.

In relation to generic skills, students who have completed this program will

- understand and analyse complex ethical issues;
- detect ambiguity, vagueness, inconsistency, and other weaknesses in the expressions of ideas;
- distinguish different types of question, claim or argument, and respond to them appropriately;
- distinguish what is relevant to a given issue from what is not;
- see ways in which an argument or explanation could be improved.

3 Entry Requirements

As for the existing entry requirements to the Master of Arts (Applied Ethics):

For the 100 point program:

- Completion of a four year honours degree with a thesis component in a relevant area and a grade average of at least H2B (70%) over the major, or
- Completion of Postgraduate Diploma in a relevant area with a grade average at least H2B (70%) over the course.

4 Course/Program Structure

The Master of Arts (Professional and Applied Ethics) is a 100 point course.

Duration: 1 year (full time) or 3 years (part time); mid-year entry available

It comprises:

Two compulsory subjects

Ethical Theory and Practice (currently 161-507 Professional Ethics) (12.5 points) (Sem. 1)

Issues in Professional and Applied Ethics (Currently 161-521 Issues in Applied Ethics) (12.5 points) (Sem. 2)

A thesis (50 points)

Two elective subjects (2 x 12.5 points)

(Total: 100 points)

Elective subjects at the University of Melbourne:

161*** *The Ethics of Environmental Responsibility* (Semester 1)

161-508 *Project in Professional Ethics* (Semester 1, repeated Semester 2)

161 *** *The Ethics of Sex* (Semester 2)

161-513 *Philosophical Texts* (Semester 1, repeated Semester 2)

161-514 *Violence War and Terrorism* (Semester 2)

Elective subjects at ANU :

922-504 8002 *Global Justice*

922-505 8003 *Mental Health Ethics*

922-506 8004 *Corruption and Anti-Corruption*

922-507 8005 *Ethics and IT*

922-508 8006 *Business Ethics*

922-509 8007 *Bioethics*

922-501 8008 *Criminal Justice Ethics*

922-502 8009 *Research Ethics*

Elective subjects at CSU

Human Rights

NB. All subjects will be taught in both enhanced DE (ie electronic access) and face-to-face modes with the exception of the thesis subject and 161-513 *Philosophical Texts*.

Options for full time study (Semester 1 enrolment):

Semester 1 and 2:

Thesis in Applied Ethics (50 points) and

Two elective subjects (12.5 points each) , and

Semester 1

Compulsory subject: 161-507 Ethical Theory and Practice (12.5 points), and

Semester 2

Compulsory subject: 161-521 Issues in Professional and Applied Ethics (12.5 points).

Options for full time study (Semester 2 enrolment):

Semester 2 and 1(the following calendar year) :

Thesis in Applied Ethics (50 points) and

Two elective subjects (12.5 points each), and

Semester 2

Compulsory subject: 161-521 Issues in Professional and Applied Ethics (12.5 points), and

Semester 1

Compulsory subject: 161-507 Ethical Theory and Practice (12.5 points).

5 Availability of Course

The course will be available full-time and part-time to fee-paying Australian and overseas students from semester 1, 2007.