

Philosophy

Philosophy has been taught and studied continuously at the University of Melbourne since 1881, and the department is accordingly one of the oldest and best established in Australia. The department is renowned for promotion of an eclectic and wide-ranging approach to philosophical issues. It has earned an international reputation for excellence in research and teaching in all of the core fields of the discipline, as well as in less traditional but burgeoning areas of philosophical inquiry and debate. Graduates of the Department have been recruited to positions in universities worldwide, and in government, industry and the arts. The department also provides an articulated structure of higher degree study for students who wish to further pursue their interests in this exciting field.

Philosophy deals with the fundamental aspects of reality and value. It tackles questions that lie outside the scope of any of the more specialised disciplines such as physics, mathematics or history, or which the specialised disciplines suggest, but cannot themselves adequately answer. Despite the abstract nature of many of the problems it encounters, philosophy looks for answers that can only be justified by the highest standards of argument and rigour. Philosophy at Melbourne is wide ranging in scope and covers core topic areas such as logic, ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, feminism, political and environmental philosophy. Among philosophical questions discussed are these: Could all experience be a dream? Does God exist? Is morality just a matter of personal preference? Is there such a thing as human nature? Are we genuinely free to choose? Does life have meaning?

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for first year philosophy subjects.

The prerequisite for a second/third year subject in philosophy is completion of one philosophy subject at first year (12.5 points). Students who have done suitable alternative first year subjects are advised to consult with the Head of Department for permission to enrol. Exemptions may also be granted where second/third year subjects are taken as part of an approved interdepartmental program with its own entry requirements. Note, however, that a major in philosophy requires the completion of two first year subjects.

Students are advised to consult individual subject prerequisites for further information.

Requirements for a major

Philosophy major

A major in philosophy consists of nine 12.5 point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first year subjects in philosophy (25 points) and;
- seven second/third year subjects in philosophy (87.5 points).

BA Students may take up to three alternative subjects offered by other departments towards their major in philosophy. Subjects from the following list will be approved automatically. Other subjects may be approved by the Head of Department if the content is deemed appropriate.

Philosophy alternative subjects	Sem.
First year	
136-031 Science, Philosophy and History (<i>p.2</i>)	2
Second/third year	
136-033 Science, Reason and Reality (<i>p.3</i>)	1
136-034 Science, Life and Mind (<i>p.3</i>)	1
136-036 Philosophy of Science (<i>p.8</i>)	N/A
136-038 The Scientific Revolution (<i>p.3</i>)	1
136-054 Controversies in Philosophy of Science (<i>p.4</i>)	1
136-260 God and the Natural Sciences (<i>p.4</i>)	2
166-020 Modern Political Thought (<i>p.3</i>)	2
730-261 Advanced Legal Philosophy (<i>p.3</i>)	N/A
730-315 Jurisprudence (<i>p.9</i>)	1

Logic and philosophy of science major

A major in logic and philosophy of science (see page 1) consists of nine 12.5 point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first year subjects in philosophy (25 points), which must include 161-115 Introduction to Formal Logic (*p.3*) and one other first year subject from the list below and;
- seven second/third year subjects (87.5 points), which must include 136-033 Science, Reason and Reality (*p.3*) and six other second/third year subjects from the list below.

Logic and philosophy of science subjects	Sem.
First year	
161-115 Introduction to Formal Logic (<i>p.3</i>)	2

Logic and philosophy of science subjects	Sem.
161-003 Critical Thinking: The Art of Reasoning (<i>p.2</i>)	1
136-031 Science, Philosophy and History (<i>p.2</i>)	2
Second/third year	
161-009 Knowledge, Truth and Relativism (<i>p.3</i>)	2
161-010 Scepticism and Reason (<i>p.8</i>)	N/A
161-011 Manners of Meaning (<i>p.8</i>)	N/A
161-033 Philosophical Problems of Space and Time (<i>p.5</i>)	1
161-210 Philosophy of Logic (<i>p.5</i>)	1
161-211 Minds and Machines (<i>p.5</i>)	2
161-212 Non-Classical Logic (<i>p.5</i>)	2
161-216 Science, Knowledge and Dogma (<i>p.6</i>)	Summer
136-033 Science, Reason and Reality (<i>p.3</i>)	1
136-034 Science, Life and Mind (<i>p.3</i>)	1
136-036 Philosophy of Science (<i>p.8</i>)	N/A
136-038 The Scientific Revolution (<i>p.3</i>)	1
136-044 Current Issues in Philosophy of Science (<i>p.8</i>)	N/A
136-054 Controversies in Philosophy of Science (<i>p.4</i>)	1
136-260 God and the Natural Sciences (<i>p.4</i>)	2

Philosophy and social theory major

A major in philosophy and social theory (see page 1) consists of nine 12.5 point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first year subjects (25 points) from the list below and;
- seven second/third year subjects (87.5 points), which must include either 136-074 Society: Revolutions to Social Movements (*p.2*) or 161-020 Phenomenology and Existentialism (*p.8*) and;
- six other second/third year subjects from the list below. **At least two subjects must be taken from each of list A and list B.**

Philosophy and social theory subjects	Sem.
First year	
161-005 Freedom and Constraint (<i>p.2</i>)	1
161-110 The Ties that Bind (<i>p.3</i>)	2
161-111 Great Ideas in Philosophy (<i>p.3</i>)	2
136-030 Human Values, Science, and Nature (<i>p.2</i>)	1
136-032 The Ecological History of Humankind (<i>p.2</i>)	2
136-110 The Risk Society: Remaking Everyday Life (<i>p.2</i>)	2
Second/third year: list A	
161-012 Classics of Political Thought (<i>p.3</i>)	1
161-013 Contemporary Political Philosophy (<i>p.8</i>)	N/A
161-020 Phenomenology and Existentialism (<i>p.8</i>)	N/A
161-021 Theories of Interpretation (<i>p.4</i>)	2
161-022 Philosophy of Feminism (<i>p.8</i>)	N/A
161-052 Ideas of Utopia (<i>p.5</i>)	2
161-214 The Philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein (<i>p.6</i>)	1
161-217 Kant's Metaphysics of Experience (<i>p.6</i>)	1
Second/third year: list B	
103-005 Cybersociety (<i>p.2</i>)	1
136-037 Issues in the Modern Life Sciences (<i>p.3</i>)	1
136-040 Science Technology and Society (<i>p.4</i>)	2
136-073 Critical Theories (<i>p.2</i>)	2
136-074 Society: Revolutions to Social Movements (<i>p.2</i>)	1
136-075 Identities in Conflict (<i>p.3</i>)	N/A
136-076 Social Theory and Political Analysis (<i>p.3</i>)	N/A
136-077 Psychoanalysis and Social Theory (<i>p.2</i>)	2
136-078 The Critical Imagination (<i>p.3</i>)	N/A

Honours entry

The prerequisites for entry to fourth year honours in philosophy are:

- completion of all the requirements for the BA and;
- completion of a major in philosophy and;
- an average grade of H2A or higher over the second/third year subjects within the major.

Entry to honours must be approved by the philosophy honours coordinator and the Faculty of Arts honours course adviser.

Students proposing to enter honours are required to have achieved some spread over their second/third year subjects. Information as to how this may be achieved can be found in the departmental Handbook or by consulting the Head of Department or the department's honours coordinator. No subjects are compulsory, but prospective honours students are strongly advised to take the subject 161-310 What is philosophy? a course specifically intended for aspiring honours students.

Honours requirements

Students enrolled in philosophy honours must achieve an H2B grade or better in each assessable component of their honours year.

Pure honours

Students undertaking pure honours in philosophy must complete:

- 161-503 Philosophy Thesis (p.6) (25 points) or 161-504 Philosophy Thesis (MYE) (p.6) (25 points) and;
- six honours subjects in philosophy (totalling 75 points).

Students may be permitted to take up to two existing honours subjects offered by the Department of History and Philosophy of Science towards their fourth years studies in philosophy. Subjects from the following list would normally be approved automatically. Other subjects may be approved on a case-by-case basis. If a student wishes to take more than two subjects then combined honours should be considered. Notwithstanding the above, enrolment is subject to approval by the philosophy honours coordinator.

- 136-416 Beyond Realism and Relativism (p.6)
- 136-417 Science in the Classical World (p.7)
- 136-462 Realism, Relativism and Naturalism (p.9)
- 136-464 Philosophical Problems in Statistics (p.9)
- 136-466 Scepticism, Fallibilism and Relativism (p.9)

Combined honours

Students undertaking combined honours in philosophy and another area of study must complete:

- 161-503 Philosophy Thesis (p.6) (25 points) or 161-504 Philosophy Thesis (MYE) (p.6) (25 points) and;
- three honours subjects in philosophy (37.5 points) and;
- three honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 37.5 points).

or

- honours thesis in the combined area of study (37.5 points) and;
- two honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 25 points) and;
- three honours subjects in philosophy (37.5 points).

Further study

The Philosophy Department offers the usual range of further study options to students who have already completed a degree: graduate certificate in philosophy (a specialised version of which is recommended for those students interested in preparing themselves for teaching philosophy at VCE level), graduate diploma in philosophy, postgraduate diploma in arts (philosophy), master of arts (by research or coursework), and the PhD. Further information about these programs can be obtained by consulting either the Faculty of Arts Postgraduate Handbook or the philosophy department's appropriate postgraduate coordinators.

Career opportunities

Philosophy develops rigorous thought, clear expression, and creative approaches to problems which are appreciated and valued by employers: 'The best graduates are those who have received a very good training in...the philosophical side of the subject matter; the understanding that will last a long time, irrespective of changes in technology or changes in the market place.' (BHP deputy chair, Jerry Ellis, *The Australian* 4/12/96)

For more information

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First year subjects

161-001 Moral Conflicts

Note: Formerly available as 161-101. Students who have completed 161-101 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr C Cordner

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week throughout the semester, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject is a critical examination of a number of current issues involving moral conflict, to be chosen from the following: euthanasia, the moral status of animals, capital punishment, abortion, and problems about war. Students will develop the ability to recognise philosophical questions raised by these issues, and to explore those questions in increasing depth. Students should also become able both to see the significance of these questions for studies in other disciplines, and to bring philosophical reflection to bear more widely on their lives.

Assessment: Two essays, one of 500 words and one of 1500 words, participation in tutorials and a 2-hour examination.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-003 Critical Thinking: The Art of Reasoning

Note: Formerly available as 161-104. Students who have completed 161-104 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: To be advised

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week throughout the semester, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject covers the fundamental principles of reasoning and argument in ordinary language. These include distinguishing reasoning from other forms of persuasion; uses and abuses of language in the expression of ideas; extracting arguments from texts; clarifying the internal structure of arguments; evaluating the acceptability of premises; distinguishing kinds of reasoning (statistical, causal, analogical, ethical, explanatory etc.); common patterns of error in reasoning; and the structure of debate. By the end of the subject students should have a greater ability to evaluate reasoning, to support their own positions, and to think their way through difficult issues. These skills should substantially enhance students' performance in subsequent subjects in the Philosophy Department and elsewhere.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words. An examination may be substituted for part of the written work.

Prescribed texts: Materials prepared by the department.

161-005 Freedom and Constraint

Note: Formerly available as 161-106. Students who have completed 161-106 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Marion Tapper

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week throughout the semester, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject is an introduction to contemporary European philosophy. Its theme is the tension between the freedom implied by consciousness and the constraints imposed by nature, culture and society. Freedom of thought and action arises from our capacity for reflection and imagination. And yet as natural, social and historical beings we appear as selves to be constrained by our biological and psychological needs and our social and historical position. The extent to which these factors constrain or merely influence our lives will be examined. Philosophers to be discussed will include Sartre, de Beauvoir, Althusser, Foucault, Freud and Saussure. On completion of the subject students should be able to recognise the distinctive nature of philosophical problems and their significance for other areas of thought; know how to go about working through such problems; be in a position to engage with more philosophical material and to apply their philosophical skills in other disciplines.

Assessment: Two essays, one of 500 words and one of 1500 words, participation in tutorials and a 2-hour examination.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-006 Reason, Religion and Responsibility

Note: Formerly available as 161-108. Students who have completed 161-108 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Douglas Adeney

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week throughout the semester, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject explores three major and interconnected philosophical issues: 1. The existence of God. Are there good reasons for believing, or for not believing, in God? But should religious belief be seen as a matter not for reason, but for *faith*, and what does this mean? 2. The meaning of life. Must there be one? Only one? Does it depend on belief in God and/or an

afterlife, or on our having values of some kind, and if so what kind and with what basis? 3. The freedom of the will. Is the course of our lives totally determined, if not by divine planning, then by other causes beyond our control, such as factors in our heredity and upbringing? If so, is our important belief that we have genuine freedom and responsibility for our actions a mere illusion?

Assessment: Two essays, one of 500 words and one of 1500 words, participation in tutorials and a 2-hour examination.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-110 The Ties that Bind

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Katrine Keuneman

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week throughout the semester, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject is an introduction to social and political philosophy. It involves an examination of a number of important questions by focusing on the politico-social frameworks of our existence. Different claims about the way we are embedded in, or detached from society, such as those made by communitarians, anarchists and liberals, are presented for analysis. A number of intimate unions which are critical to our self-understanding and our relation to others are also explored. The subject will ask students to examine a number of case studies that present social and political problems in complex contexts, and students will need to identify and evaluate the philosophical bases of some commonly debated issues and dilemmas. On completion of the subject students should have developed an awareness of the way in which social structures and the shape of intimate relationships reflect fundamental understandings about how we should live. They should also be better able to analyse the locus of socio-political disagreement.

Assessment: Two essays, one of 500 words and one of 1500 words, regular participation in tutorials and a 2-hour examination.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-111 Great Ideas in Philosophy

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Barry Taylor

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week throughout the semester, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject examines some of the most fundamental and original ideas philosophers have introduced. Students will examine a variety of historical periods and philosophical traditions, and study will be based on the writings of the philosophers themselves. In particular, the course will study the doctrine of the Ancient Greek philosopher Plato; the sceptical argument of the 17th century French philosopher Descartes; the ideas advanced by the 18th Century British philosopher Berkeley; and the case for the unconscious advanced by Freud in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Students should develop the ability to read and critically assess a philosophical text, and the ability and background necessary to engage with philosophical ideas at an advanced level.

Assessment: Two essays, one of 500 words and one of 1500 words, regular participation in tutorials and a 2-hour examination.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-115 Introduction to Formal Logic

Note: Formerly available as 161-015. Students who have completed 161-015 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: To be advised

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week throughout the semester, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject is an introduction to the elements of modern formal logic. One of the most important aspects of analysing an argument is the assessment of its validity: whether the premises really do imply the conclusion. Modern formal logic uses symbolic techniques for an analysis of validity, and related notions such as grammatical form and truth. Students of the subject should attain an understanding of the elements of these techniques and their meanings. This is essential for an understanding of many aspects of contemporary philosophy, mathematics, and information processing.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-134 Asian Philosophies

Note: Formerly available as 161-034. Students who have completed 161-034 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Prof Graham Priest

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week throughout the semester, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject is an introduction to central aspects of Asian philosophy, and especially the philosophical traditions of India, China and Japan. Students can expect to learn the basic elements of the philosophical thought of Hinduism, Buddhism (including Zen), Taoism, and Confucianism. Issues in both ethics and metaphysics will be considered. Some parallels with Western philosophy may be drawn.

Assessment: Two essays, one of 500 words and one of 1500 words, regular participation in tutorials and a 2-hour examination.

Second/third year subjects

161-008 Moral Theory: Basic Issues

Note: This subject is offered in alternate years with 161-027 Applied Ethics (*p.4*).

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Christopher Cordner

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the head of department or subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject involves the discussion of some recent philosophical explorations of the nature and ground of moral thinking. On completion of the subject students should be able to think critically about, and to evaluate, the philosophical cogency of those explorations, and have acquired a background for their own further philosophical reflection on the nature and ground of morality.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-009 Knowledge, Truth and Relativism

Note: This subject is offered in alternate years with 161-010 Scepticism and Reason (*p.8*).

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Bruce Langtry

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject examines the philosophical thesis that there is no absolute truth or knowledge: truth and knowledge are always relative to some specific intellectual tradition, or community, or individual outlook. There will be discussion of major authors who have influenced relativist thinking, such as Thomas Kuhn, Paul Feyerabend and Richard Rorty.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, plus regular participation in tutorials.

161-012 Classics of Political Thought

Note: This subject is offered in alternate years with 161-013 Contemporary Political Philosophy (*p.8*).

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Douglas Adeney

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject involves the critical study of classic political texts by Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes and Locke, with comparisons among them and with more recent writers. These texts contain many famous views and arguments, and raise various fundamental questions in political philosophy including those of the basis of political authority, the relationship between politics and morality, and the best form of government. The study of such classics should develop students' appreciation of historically important parts

of Western thought, and contribute to a richer understanding of modern views and issues.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-018 Philosophy of Art

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: To be advised

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: In this subject major classical texts in aesthetics will be studied. The subject will confront students with the dominant ideas in different historical periods concerning art and the aesthetic, and assist them in responding to these ideas with critical awareness.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-021 Theories of Interpretation

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Marion Tapper

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy or European studies subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject studies the theories of meaning and interpretation developed in contemporary European thought. It examines questions such as: What is a text? Is the meaning of a text a function of the author's intentions, or is the meaning to be identified with some representation of the world described in the text, or is it a function of the structure of the text and discourse in general? Can interpretations be true? Can conflicting interpretations both be true? What is it to interpret a text? How does an interpretation differ from a deconstruction? Major authors discussed will be chosen from Saussure, Freud, Heidegger, Ricoeur, Gadamer, Derrida, Barthes and Foucault. On completion of this subject students should have a broad grasp of a variety of competing theories and understand what would be involved in applying them to a critical reading of texts.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-023 Medieval Philosophy

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Brian Scarlett

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: Thinking about human nature, the body, sex, death and the possibility of a transcendent dimension to life is still heavily influenced by medieval thought. In this subject this influence will be examined and criticised through a study of a range of philosophical texts. Students should gain the ability to understand and criticise philosophical texts from the 5th to the 13th century and bring to the investigation of certain contemporary philosophical problems an informed sense of the contributions made to their solution in the middle ages.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-024 Issues in Biomedical Ethics

Note: This subject is also available as 502-024 Issues in Biomedical Ethics (Medicine) for MBBS students.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Brian Scarlett

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: The course will examine a number of theoretical ethical issues that arise from the beginning to the end of life and use contemporary ethical

theory to analyse them. It will deal with matters issues such as compulsory medical treatment; human genetic screening and engineering; the medical elimination of differences; the distribution of scarce health resources; abortion; euthanasia; the idea of a sacred untouchable realm; The difference between killing and letting die; and the treatment of PVS (persistent vegetative state) patients.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-026 Philosophy and Music

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Katrine Keuneman

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject consists of a philosophical exploration of a number of questions arising in connection with music: How should we define or understand music? What is the relationship between music and society? What problems are raised by notions such as creation, performance, and authenticity? What is the ontological status of a piece of music? Where do various theories locate meaning in music? By the end of the subject it is expected students will be able to discern the philosophical implications of questions about the nature and interpretation of music, to understand the cultural shaping of key background concepts, and to grasp and compare various theories of meaning in music.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-027 Applied Ethics

Note: This subject is offered in alternate years with 161-008 Moral Theory: Basic Issues (*p.3*).

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: To be advised

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: In this subject, students should develop an appreciation of the relevance of philosophy to issues of public concern by attention to some significant and controversial areas. These may include some of sexual morality and public policy; business ethics; the justification of punishment; and the morality of war.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-030 The Rise of Modern Philosophy

Note: This subject is offered in alternate years with 161-031 Metaphysics and the Nature of God (*p.5*).

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Allen Hazen

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject is a study of metaphysical and epistemological topics arising in and from the work of 17th and 18th century philosophers from the rationalist and empiricist traditions. In each case, the focus will be on primary texts by the author concerned, though some use will be made of the secondary literature, and recent philosophical research on relevant issues. Metaphysical issues discussed may include substance and causation. Epistemological issues discussed may include the roles of experience and reason in the foundations of knowledge. Students should complete the subject able to display acquaintance with the work of selected 17th and 18th century philosophers; able to show an understanding of selected issues raised by those philosophers; and be able to indicate awareness of how those issues are related to 20th century work.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-031 Metaphysics and the Nature of God

Note: This subject is offered in alternate years with 161-030 The Rise of Modern Philosophy (*p.4*).

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Bruce Langtry

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject explores contemporary metaphysics and its bearing on the nature of God. The focus for the coming year will be on the philosophy of Christianity. Issues discussed will include divine attributes such as love, justice, mercy, incarnation and trinity, and features of the divine-human relationship such as atonement, justification and prayer. On completion of this subject students should show an understanding of the issues raised in classes, and have developed skill in philosophical reasoning concerning those issues.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-033 Philosophical Problems of Space and Time

Note: This subject is offered in alternate years with 161-011 Manners of Meaning (*p.8*).

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Allen Hazen

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: The natures of space and time present a wide range of philosophical puzzlements, some of which have been argued over since the ancient Greeks, and some of which stem from 20th century physics. This subject looks at several of them. Some of the issues are foundational for physics and geometry, but the concepts can (and will) be approached in a way that does not presuppose specific mathematical or scientific study beyond Year 10.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-035 Philosophy of Buddhism

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Len O'Neill

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy or Asian studies subject (in consultation with the lecturer), or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: A 2-hour lecture/seminar per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject explores the Buddhist account of suffering as deriving from the illusion of permanence and the self and of how release from suffering may be achieved. It should provide students with a critical understanding of the key notions and central philosophical doctrines of Buddhism.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-052 Ideas of Utopia

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Katrine Keuneman

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject is a study of different utopian theories (that is theories which describe the ideal state or society) representing a variety of philosophical positions. The subject introduces the student to a number of different ideals of social perfection and to the difficulties which emerge in prescribing the pathway to lead us there. It explores the conception of human nature which various theories imply. It also examines the problems encountered by utopian theorists in attempting to reconcile conflicting aims such as freedom and equality. Students who complete the subject should be able to analyse the arguments offered in favour of different utopian visions. They should also

appreciate the tensions and difficulties arising from both particular theories and, arguably, from utopian thought in general.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-210 Philosophy of Logic

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: To be advised

Prerequisites: 161-115 Introduction to Formal Logic (*p.3*) or equivalent, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject examines a number of the philosophical issues that arise in connection with modern formal logic. It introduces students to questions concerning the metaphysical and epistemological status of logic and the machinery connected with it. Students will encounter contemporary views and arguments on these issues. By the end of the subject, students should develop an understanding of these matters, as well as an ability to articulate and defend their own views on the matters covered.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

Prescribed texts: A reading list will be provided by the department.

161-211 Minds and Machines

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: To be advised

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject focuses on the view that the mind is a computational device. The subject introduces students to the view in question, its ramifications and problems. Students will encounter not only philosophical issues, but some basic ideas in neuroanatomy, cognitive psychology and artificial intelligence. By the end of the subject, students should understand the debates concerning the computational hypothesis, and also be able to articulate and defend their views on the matter.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-212 Non-Classical Logic

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Allen Hazen

Prerequisites: 161-115 Introduction to Formal Logic (*p.3*) or equivalent, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject concerns non-classical logic, that is, logic that extends or critiques the more orthodox logic normally encountered in a first course in logic. Students will be introduced to some of the more important non-classical logics. Details of the semantics and proof-theories of these logics will be considered, as well as the philosophical rationales for the logics. On completion of the subject, students should have a good understanding of the technical details of the logics covered, and of philosophical debates surrounding these logics.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

Prescribed texts: G Priest, *Introduction to Non-Classical Logic*, Cambridge UP 2001.

161-213 Thinking in Asian Philosophy

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr P Bilimoria & Dr G Petterson

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy or Asian studies subject (in consultation with the lecturers), or permission from the Head of Department or the lecturers in charge of the subject.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks of semester, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject examines the nature and process of thinking, as discussed in a range of Asian philosophical traditions. The subject requires students to understand various views on this matter in Indian, Chinese and Japanese thought. Students will meet texts by Confucius, Dogen, and Hindu orthodoxy. On completion of the subject students should have developed a knowledge and understanding of the relevant views, as well as an ability to articulate and evaluate them.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-214 The Philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Barry Taylor

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject engages students with the major themes in the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein, the Austrian philosopher whose ideas on language, thought, and reality powerfully influenced the shape of 20th century philosophy. It introduces students to Wittgenstein's main themes, and to critical issues which they raise. Specifically, the course concentrates on the views developed in Wittgenstein's mature work, the *Philosophical Investigations*, against the background of an introduction to his earlier views as expounded in his *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*. Students should develop an understanding of Wittgenstein's key themes and the issues they raise, an appreciation of their importance to philosophical inquiry, and the ability to proceed to further work on these topics.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

161-215 The Nature of Mind

Note: This is an intensive subject held over two weeks during Summer Semester. Timetabling will be such that this subject and 161-216 Science, Knowledge and Dogma (*p.6*) can be taken concurrently.

Strict enrolment deadlines apply to subjects taught during the Summer Semester. Any enrolment in, or withdrawal from, this subject for the Summer Semester must be made in line with HECS census dates, see page 6.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Barry Taylor

Prerequisites: Any two university subjects or equivalent, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per day for 10 days (*Summer semester*).

Description: This subject examines the major theories contemporary philosophers have advanced to explain the nature of the human mind. It introduces students to the problems that theories of the mind attempt to solve, to the ways in which these theories attempt a solution, and to the problems these attempts at solution encounter. Specifically, the subject will address the theories of dualism, epiphenomenalism, behaviourism, physicalism, functionalism, and eliminativism. Students should develop an understanding of these theories, an appreciation of what motivates them, and of their problems. The subject provides the basis for advanced work in the field, and is also designed to provide a solid background for teachers of the Philosophy of Mind at VCE level.

Assessment: Two 2000-word essays and regular tutorial participation.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-216 Science, Knowledge and Dogma

Note: This is an intensive subject held over two weeks during Summer Semester. Timetabling will be such that this subject and 161-215 The Nature of Mind (*p.6*) can be taken concurrently.

Strict enrolment deadlines apply to subjects taught during the Summer Semester. Any enrolment in, or withdrawal from, this subject for the Summer Semester must be made in line with HECS census dates, see page 6.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: To be advised

Prerequisites: Any two university subjects or equivalent, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per day for 10 days (*Summer semester*).

Description: This subject investigates a number of questions concerning the nature and status of science and its relation to knowledge: Does science give

us knowledge by reaching conclusions which are certainly true, or can it only give us probable truths? What is it for something to be true and certain? Does science at least *begin* from pieces of knowledge, from data which are indubitable and unattained by theory? But do such data exist? What, ultimately, distinguishes science from pseudo-science (such as astrology) on the one hand, and from mere dogma on the other? Is it a matter of a *method* specific to scientific investigation, and how is that to be defined? On completion of the subject students should be familiar with the philosophical implications and discussions of science and the relation it has to the construction of particular kinds of knowledge.

Assessment: Two 2000-word essays, and regular participation in tutorials.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

161-217 Kant's Metaphysics of Experience

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Marion Tapper

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures per week for the first 11 weeks, and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the third week of semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject is a study of Kant's explanation of and arguments for transcendental idealism in *The Critique of Pure Reason*. It examines the arguments that space, time and the categories, together with the transcendental unity of apperception, are the conditions of experience. How the conditions provide the basis for knowledge of the world will be discussed. In the process the role of imagination in experience will be considered. On completion of this subject students should have a detailed knowledge of the *Critique*, understand Kant's philosophy in relation to his predecessors, and demonstrate an ability to critically examine philosophical theses and arguments.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

Prescribed texts: K Smith, Pluhar or Guyer & Wood (trans), I Kant, *The Critique of Pure Reason*.

Third year subjects

161-310 What is Philosophy?

Availability: 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Prof Graham Priest

Prerequisites: Any four single-semester second/third year philosophy subjects.

Contact: A 1-hour lecture and a 1.5-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject examines the nature of philosophy itself. It should encourage students to reflect on the nature and methods of the philosophy they have studied to date. It is intended for students nearing completion of a philosophy major, but may also be taken by others. Students will read what many great philosophers have said about the nature of philosophy. By the end of the topic students should be able to understand and evaluate these ideas, as well as to articulate and defend their own views on the matter.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and regular participation in tutorials.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

Fourth year subjects

161-503 Philosophy Thesis

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 25

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Marion Tapper

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.

Contact: Fortnightly meetings with the supervisor, plus attendance at a weekly seminar (*Year long*).

Description: A supervised thesis on a topic to be approved by the Head of Department or the department's honours coordinator. Students will be required to attend weekly seminars and present a class paper based on their thesis topic.

Assessment: A thesis of 10 000 words, regular attendance at weekly seminars and presentation of a paper based on the thesis topic.

161-504 Philosophy Thesis (MYE)

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 25**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr Marion Tapper**Prerequisites:** Mid-year admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.**Contact:** Fortnightly meetings with the supervisor, plus attendance at a weekly seminar to begin in the middle of first semester (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).**Description:** A supervised thesis on a topic to be approved by the Head of Department or the department's honours coordinator. Students will be required to attend weekly seminars and present a class paper based on their thesis topic.**Assessment:** A thesis of 10 000 words, regular attendance at weekly seminars and presentation of a paper based on the thesis topic.**161-431 Recent European Philosophy****Note:** Formerly available as 161-039. Students who have completed 161-039 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.**Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr Marion Tapper**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture/seminar per week (*Semester 2*).**Description:** This subject involves a study of one or more key texts and themes in 20th century European philosophy. Students completing the subject should have achieved a critical understanding of the texts and themes discussed and be able to relate them to contemporary issues in philosophy.**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words.**161-432 Ethical Perspectives****Note:** Formerly available as 161-040. Students who have completed 161-040 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.**Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr Katrine Keuneman**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture/seminar per week (*Semester 1*).**Description:** Both continental and English-speaking philosophers will be included in this advanced study of conceptual and ethical problems posed by our existence as embodied individuals and social beings. Embodiment will be explored from a variety of angles: phenomenological, epistemological and ethical. Topics to be covered may include the lived body; the sexed body; bodies and ritual; monstrous bodies; and bodies after Freud. The subject will help students in the investigation of the problems posed by embodied existence from a variety of philosophical perspectives: phenomenological, epistemological and ethical.**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words.**161-435 Topics in Philosophy****Note:** Formerly available as 161-042. Students who have completed 161-042 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.**Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** To be advised**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture/seminar per week (*Semester 2*).**Description:** This subject examines some topic or topics of interest in current philosophical debate.**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words.**161-436 Issues in Analytic Metaphysics****Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr Allen Hazen**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture/seminar per week (*Semester 1*).**Description:** This subject examines analytical metaphysics, that is, metaphysics as practised by philosophers of the analytic school in the 20th century, making use of concepts and results of modern (symbolic or mathematical) logic. Students will be introduced to one or more topics in this area, such as (the modern version of) the (traditional) problem of universals, which trans-

lates the traditional problem into one of the interpretation and legitimation of formalised languages. Original writings by figures such as Bertrand Russell and W V Quine will be considered, as well as subsequent commentary. On completion of the subject, students should have a good understanding of the 20th century debate on the topic, and of the forms of argument characteristic of debates on this and similar topics.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words.**161-437 Topics in Applied Ethics****Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** To be advised**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture/seminar per week (*Semester 2*).**Description:** The subject deals with topics from a range of areas in applied ethics, including issues of individual decision-making, ethical issues facing professions and other vocational groupings, and public policy issues. The subject asks students to use skills in philosophical reasoning, and a knowledge of pure philosophical theory in such areas as moral and political philosophy, along with relevant empirical information, to devise solutions and assess proposals on selected 'applied' topics. Students will become familiar with the recent literature in such journals as *The Journal of Applied Philosophy and Philosophy and Public Affairs*.**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words.**161-443 Political Philosophy****Note:** Formerly available as 161-046. Students who have completed 161-046 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.**Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** To be advised**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture/seminar per week (*Semester 1*).**Description:** The subject will examine topics in political philosophy. These may change from year to year, but might include issues concerning the state, war, social justice etc.**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words.**161-445 Current Issues in Philosophy****Note:** Students who have completed 161-047 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.**Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof Barry Taylor**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture/seminar per week (*Semester 2*).**Description:** This subject examines problems and issues of central interest in current philosophical debate in the areas of metaphysics and the philosophy of language, through a study of selected journal articles and monographs by prominent contemporary philosophers. Typical issues discussed are realism and anti-realism, the ontology of mind, and the nature of objectivity. Students of the subject should attain detailed knowledge of the ideas operative in the topics selected for study, and the background and context necessary for their evaluation.**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words.**161-447 Logic****Note:** Formerly available as 161-048. Students who have completed 161-048 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.**Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Prof Graham Priest & Dr Allen Hazen**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy, and completion of two second/third year philosophy subjects.**Contact:** A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).**Description:** This subject involves advanced topics in formal logic, the particular topic in any year to be chosen by the coordinators after consultation with the candidate/s. On completion of the subject students should have gained an understanding of the philosophical motivations for the study of formal logic and have had experience in using the mathematical techniques for the study of formalised languages that have been developed in modern logic.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words.

Subjects not offered in 2002

Second/third year subjects not offered in 2002

161-007 Moral Philosophy: Great Thinkers

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject requires students to study critically three of the classic works of moral philosophy: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, and Mill's *Utilitarianism*. On completion of the subject students should have acquired the competence and understanding necessary to engage profitably with these significant and influential texts, and to appreciate what is distinctive and of abiding interest in them.

161-010 Scepticism and Reason

Note: This subject is offered in alternate years with 161-009 Knowledge, Truth and Relativism (*p.3*).

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: At least one single-semester first year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject deals with two major topics in the contemporary theory of knowledge and rational belief. Firstly, scepticism: Are most of my ordinary commonsense beliefs about the world around me beliefs which I am justified in holding? Do I have good reasons for their truth? Secondly, a priori knowledge: Are there logically necessary truths? Is there a priori knowledge? If so, how are we to understand the capacity of human beings to possess a priori knowledge? Students should gain a sound general comprehension of the major recent advances in our philosophical understanding of the nature and structure of knowledge and the roles of experience and reasoning in contributing to this structure.

161-011 Manners of Meaning

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy, anthropology or linguistics subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a survey of the philosophy of language in the 20th century and its antecedents, aiming at a description of the main trends, their ambitions, and the difficulties associated with them. Students of the subject should attain a broad knowledge of these trends, and be in a position to study them in further detail either within philosophy, or in related fields such as anthropology or linguistics.

161-013 Contemporary Political Philosophy

Note: This subject is offered in alternate years with 161-012 Classics of Political Thought (*p.3*).

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject examines contemporary work on the philosophical foundations of political liberalism, understood broadly to include concern with issues of justice in matters of wealth and social stratification, as well as issues of freedom. Special attention will be paid to the writings of the American philosopher John Rawls.

161-014 Environmental Philosophy

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or 121-012 Environmental Change, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a study of the historical background to our present attitudes; what we mean by 'the environment'; models and theories for relating to the environment; moral problems concerning food chains; the preference for diversity; and the bearer of rights and values. The subject should provide students with a critical understanding of some of the main sources of present day attitudes to the environment, and a critical understanding of a representative selection of contemporary philosophical thought about the environment.

161-016 Metatheory

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 161-115 Introduction to Formal Logic (*p.3*) or equivalent, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject deals with selected topics in logic beyond what is covered in 161-115 Introduction to Formal Logic (*p.3*), such as the completeness and undecidability of first-order logic and alternative deductive systems. Concepts and results will be approached via both theoretical discussion and practical experience with formal techniques, enabling students to appreciate the philosophical importance of the major logical results and equipping them for further study in philosophy (or logic-related areas of other disciplines, e.g. mathematics, linguistics, computer science).

161-017 Does God Exist?

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: A least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a philosophical examination of whether God exists. Questions covered may include Do recent scientific discoveries about the origins and nature of the physical universe yield a good argument for the view that the physical universe was designed by some intelligent being? Could historical evidence for miracles in principle provide good evidence that God exists? Just how strong a theoretical difficulty does evil constitute for belief in God?

161-019 Greek Philosophy

Note: This subject is offered in alternate years with 161-023 Medieval Philosophy (*p.4*).

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject examines Greek theories of knowledge, reality and value concentrating on Plato and Aristotle, but with reference to other thinkers. At the completion of the subject a student should be able to give an account of the scope, achievements, and principal concerns of some central Greek philosophical investigations into the nature of reality and knowledge; acquire critical and analytical skills in the reading of selected Greek philosophical texts; be able to trace connections between ancient and modern treatments of metaphysical and epistemological issues.

161-020 Phenomenology and Existentialism

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy or European studies subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a study of some classic texts and major themes in the 20th century philosophical traditions of phenomenology and existentialism. Themes to be discussed will include consciousness and perception, being-in-the-world, embodiment, truth and evidence, the phenomenological method, and the meaning of transcendental philosophy. The main authors to be discussed will be selected from Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty and Sartre and their texts will be discussed in the light of contemporary interpretation and criticism. On completion of the subject students should be able to engage in detailed exegesis of philosophical texts and to critically examine philosophical arguments and theses therein.

161-022 Philosophy of Feminism

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator. Women's studies students wishing to enrol in this subject would normally have completed first year women's studies,

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject explores the meaning and development of key concepts such as the social construction of womanhood, equality, difference and power. The changing relationship between traditional philosophy and feminist theory is examined, and some recent feminist epistemological and ethical theories are also presented and critically analysed. On completion of the subject students should have an understanding of the debates about the nature of sexual difference and the location of sexual oppression.

161-029 Philosophy and Literature

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: At least one first year single-semester philosophy or first year European studies subject, or permission from the Head of Department or subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is an exploration of some of the philosophical problems concerning the self raised by autobiographical writing. The links between literary and philosophical texts will be examined, as well as themes like narrative unity and human identity; selfhood and temporality; and the possibility of self-knowledge. On completion of the subject, students should have gained insight into the problems of writing about oneself, and skills in extracting philosophical implications from literary texts.

161-036 Issues in Philosophy

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: A first year single-semester philosophy subject. Students who lack this prerequisite, but believe themselves adequately prepared to attempt second/third year subjects, should consult the Head of Department.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject offers a detailed investigation and analysis of one or more philosophical topics of concern, familiarising students with the philosophical topic or topics dealt with in lectures and providing them with the ability to evaluate research in terms of the adequacy of the methodology employed in the research and the effectiveness with which it is presented in publications. Students should also gain the ability to conduct library research and produce a logically structured, coherent and concise evaluative report setting out prior work on the area/s in question and indicating ways in which the topic/s could be analysed in future studies.

161-053 The Good Life in Ancient Thought

Note: This is an intensive subject held over two weeks during Summer Semester. Timetabling will be such that this subject and 161-054 Human Life in Modern Thought (*p.9*) can be taken concurrently. To be offered in alternate years.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Any two university subjects or equivalent, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: The subject examines and critically compares a number of conceptions of good human life to be found in ancient philosophical, cultural and religious texts and traditions. These conceptions include those of Plato and Aristotle and their Greek successors the Cynics, Stoics, and Epicureans; some from other Mediterranean sources such as the Roman, Jewish, and Christian; and some from further afield such as the Hindu, Buddhist and Confucian. Topics and themes include the nature of happiness and its relation to virtue, the varieties and significance of social life and relationships between the sexes, the relative importance of this-worldly and other-worldly goods, and the nature and causes of moral success and failure. Students will be expected to develop an understanding of these various conceptions, of important similarities and differences among them, of philosophical issues arising in and about them, and of their relevance to enduring questions concerning the quality of human life.

161-054 Human Life in Modern Thought

Note: This is an intensive subject held over two weeks during Summer Semester. Timetabling will be such that this subject and 161-053 The Good Life in Ancient Thought (*p.9*) can be taken concurrently. To be offered in alternate years.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Any two university subjects or equivalent, or permission from the Head of Department or the subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: The subject examines some influential 19th and 20th century conceptions of human life and human nature, including the revolutionary ideas of Nietzsche, Darwin, Marx, Sartre, Freud and Wittgenstein. Students are asked to engage with key questions arising in the writings of these thinkers, including the following: 1. Are human life and values determined by biological instinct, by social and economic forces, by personal psychological dynamics, or by free individual choices? 2. Does human morality require a religious foundation? 3. Do human minds differ radically from those of (other) animals? 4. Do such ideas concerning human nature have implications for the way we should conduct our lives?

Fourth year subjects not offered in 2002

161-433 Value Theory

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject will involve an advanced study of problems and issues in contemporary value theory, normally concentrating on issues in ethics. In some years the course may instead focus on issues in contemporary aesthetics. On completion of the subject students should be able to bring philosophical reflection to bear more widely on their lives.

161-434 Epistemology and Metaphysics

Note: Formerly available as 161-041. Students who have completed 161-041 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: Selected issues in contemporary epistemology and metaphysics.

161-440 Philosophical Psychology

Note: Formerly available as 161-043. Students who have completed 161-043 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: A traditional definition has it that a person is an individual substance of a rational kind. This subject investigates questions arising from these requirements, for example: Could social groups be primary and individual humans secondary? Could a person be a mere bundle of mental items or of atoms, and not an organic unity? Could the vocabulary of thought and sense be dispensed with to suit the requirements of an impersonal scientific world view? How does madness fit into the rationality requirement? Do answers to these questions have anything to do with how we ought to live?

161-442 Ethical Theory

Note: Formerly available as 161-045. Students who have completed 161-045 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in philosophy.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: The major topics to be covered in this subject will be the relation between normative ethics and meta-ethics, the nature and plausibility of moral realism, and the varieties and limitations of consequentialism.

