

# Philosophy

Philosophy has been taught and studied continuously at the University of Melbourne since 1881, and the School of Philosophy is accordingly one of the oldest and best established in Australia. The school 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 School have been recruited to positions in universities worldwide, and in government, industry and the arts. The School 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 the University of 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?

## Time commitment to study

As well as scheduled contact hours for lectures, tutorial and seminars a considerable additional time commitment is needed to complete the academic requirements of each subject.

A subject-specific time commitment to study will be provided by your lecturer or tutor at the beginning of semester to help you schedule your workload and successfully manage your time during the semester. In addition, general estimates of the total time commitment required to study a 12.5-point single semester subject in the Faculty of Arts can be found on page 1.

## 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 School for permission to enrol. Exemptions may also be granted where second/third-year subjects are taken as part of an approved interdisciplinary program with its own entry requirements.

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

## Diploma in Arts (Philosophy)

The Diploma in Arts (Philosophy) is only available to students who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree course at the University of Melbourne. It consists of a three-year sequence of study, and adds one year to the duration of your degree.

Students must complete 25 points of first-year philosophy subjects and 75 points of second/third-year philosophy subjects. Alternatively, students who have completed appropriate background studies at first year may complete 100 points of second/third-year philosophy subjects.

## Requirements for a major

### Philosophy major

A major in philosophy consists of eight 12.5-point subjects, totalling 100 points. It comprises:

- up to two first-year subjects in philosophy (25 points); and
- second/third-year subjects in philosophy to total 100 points overall.

Subjects for the major	Sem.
<b>First year</b>	
161-101 Morality and its Dilemmas (p.2)	N/A
161-104 Critical Thinking: The Art of Reasoning (p.2)	2
161-106 Existentialism and its Critics (p.2)	2
161-108 God, Morality and Free Will (p.3)	1
161-110 Global Justice and Human Rights (p.3)	1
161-111 Great Ideas in Philosophy (p.3)	2
161-115 Logic (p.3)	1 rep Summer
161-134 Asian Philosophies (p.3)	N/A

Subjects for the major	Sem.
<b>Second/third year</b>	
161-007 Great Thinkers in Moral Philosophy (p.3)	1
161-008 Basic Issues in Moral Theory (p.3)	N/A
161-009 Knowledge, Truth and Relativism (p.4)	N/A
161-010 Scepticism and Reason (p.4)	1
161-011 Manners of Meaning (p.4)	2
161-012 Classics of Political Thought (p.4)	N/A
161-013 Contemporary Political Philosophy (p.4)	2
161-014 Environmental Philosophy (p.4)	N/A
161-016 Metatheory (p.4)	1
161-017 Does God Exist? (p.4)	2
161-018 Philosophy of Art (p.4)	N/A
161-019 Greek Philosophy (p.5)	1
161-020 Classics of Phenomenology (p.5)	N/A
161-021 From Hermeneutics to Derrida (p.5)	2
161-024 Issues in Biomedical Ethics (p.5)	2
161-027 Practical Ethics (p.5)	N/A
161-029 Philosophy and Literature (p.5)	2
161-030 The Rise of Modern Philosophy (p.5)	N/A
161-031 Philosophy of Christianity (p.5)	N/A
161-035 Philosophy of Buddhism (p.6)	N/A
161-052 Ideas of Utopia (p.6)	N/A
161-053 The Good Life in Ancient Thought (p.6)	Summer
161-054 Human Life in Modern Thought (p.6)	Summer
161-210 Philosophy of Logic (p.6)	N/A
161-211 Minds and Computers (p.6)	N/A
161-212 Non-Classical Logic (p.6)	N/A
161-213 Thinking in Asian Philosophy (p.7)	N/A
161-214 The Philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein (p.7)	1
161-215 The Nature of Mind (p.7)	N/A
161-216 Science, Knowledge and Dogma (p.7)	N/A
161-217 Kant's Metaphysics of Experience (p.7)	N/A
161-235 Recent French Philosophy (p.7)	1
161-236 Nietzsche and the Dream of Reason (p.7)	1
161-237 Analytic Philosophy (p.7)	1
161-238 Body, Time and Spirit in Indian Thought (p.8)	1
161-240 Chinese Philosophy (p.8)	2
161-241 Mathematical Logic (p.8)	2
161-247 The Structure of Reality (p.8)	2
<b>Third year</b>	
161-310 What is Philosophy? (p.8)	2

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

Philosophy alternative subjects	Sem.
<b>First year</b>	
136-105 Science, Philosophy and History (p.2)	1
<b>Second/third year</b>	
110-210 Muslim Philosophy and Thought (p.2)	1
136-033 Science, Reason and Reality (p.3)	2
136-034 Science, Life and Mind (p.3)	N/A
136-260 God and the Natural Sciences (p.5)	1
166-020 Modern Political Thought (p.4)	N/A
730-261 Advanced Legal Philosophy (p.5)	N/A
730-315 Jurisprudence (p.14)	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.

For information on how to apply see *Applying for Honours* (p.13).

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 School Handbook or by consulting the Head of School or the School's honours coordinator. No subjects are compulsory, but prospective honours students are strongly advised to complete 161-310 What is Philosophy? (p.8) a subject specifically intended for aspiring honours students.

## Honours requirements

### Pure honours

Students undertaking pure honours in philosophy must complete:

- 161-504 Philosophy Thesis (*p.8*) (25 points); and
- six honours subjects in philosophy (totalling 75 points).

### Honours subjects

	Sem.
161-431 Recent European Philosophy ( <i>p.9</i> )	1
161-432 Topics in Moral Psychology ( <i>p.9</i> )	N/A
161-433 Value Theory ( <i>p.9</i> )	2
161-434 Epistemology and Metaphysics ( <i>p.9</i> )	1
161-435 Topics in Continental Philosophy ( <i>p.9</i> )	2
161-436 Issues in Analytic Metaphysics ( <i>p.9</i> )	2
161-437 Topics in Applied Ethics ( <i>p.9</i> )	2
161-438 Logic and Philosophy ( <i>p.9</i> )	2
161-439 Rationality ( <i>p.10</i> )	1
161-440 Philosophical Psychology ( <i>p.10</i> )	N/A
161-443 Political Philosophy ( <i>p.10</i> )	1
161-445 Current Issues in Philosophy ( <i>p.10</i> )	2
161-447 Topics in Advanced Logic ( <i>p.10</i> )	1

Students may be permitted to take up to two existing honours subjects offered within the history and philosophy of science program 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.

- 136-536 Realism, Relativism and Naturalism (*p.10*)
- 136-546 The Critical Imagination (*p.3*)

### Combined honours

Students undertaking combined honours in philosophy and another program must complete:

- 161-504 Philosophy Thesis (*p.8*) (25 points); and
- three honours subjects in philosophy (37.5 points)\*; and
- three honours subjects in the combining discipline (totalling 37.5 points).

\* As the honours thesis in philosophy is 25 points (as opposed to the usual 37.5 thesis in other Arts areas) combined honours students taking their thesis in philosophy take three coursework subjects in both philosophy and the combining discipline.

or

- honours thesis in the combining discipline (37.5 points); and
- two honours subjects in the combining discipline (totalling 25 points); and
- three honours subjects in philosophy (37.5 points).

### Further study

The School of Philosophy offers a 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 School of Philosophy's 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

### 161-101 Morality and its Dilemmas

**Note:** Formerly available as 161-001. Students who have completed 161-001 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 1st year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** This subject explores 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. The subject also involves reflection on the origin and nature of morality. 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.

### 161-104 Critical Thinking: The Art of Reasoning

**Note:** Formerly available as 161-003. Students who have completed 161-003 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 1st year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof Tim van Gelder

**Contact:** Thirty-five contact hours per semester: two 1-hour lectures per week for the whole semester and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** This subject covers the fundamental principles of reasoning and argument in ordinary language. These include identification and evaluation of basic arguments; complex arguments; argument mapping techniques; writing good argumentative prose; fallacies; debating, rational inquiry, and critical thinking. 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 offered by the School of Philosophy and elsewhere.

**Assessment:** Four homework sets of up to 12 exercises 60% (due every three weeks), tutorial participation 3%, and a multiple choice final exam (not open-book) 37% (held at the end of semester).

**Prescribed texts:** (1) Rationale Software, provided by the University of Melbourne Reason!; (2) Online Learning Materials (further information available on Webrat website).

### 161-106 Existentialism and its Critics

**Note:** Formerly available as 161-005. Students who have completed 161-005 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 1st year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Marion Tapper

**Contact:** Thirty-five contact hours per semester: two 1-hour lectures per week for the whole semester and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 2*).

**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. The first half of the subject will be a study of key themes in Sartre's *Being and Nothingness*, particularly his account of human freedom. We will then consider the consequences for such freedom from consideration of Althusser's account of ideology and Foucault's account of power. 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:** A written assignment of 500 words 10% (due early in the semester), a written assignment of 1500 words 40% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour written examination (not open-book) 47% (held at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

**161-108 God, Morality and Free Will**

**Note:** Formerly available as 161-006. Students who have completed 161-006 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 1st year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Douglas Adeney

**Contact:** Thirty-five contact hours per semester: two 1-hour lectures per week for the whole 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? Should religious belief be seen as a matter not for reason, but for faith, and what does this mean? (2) The meaning of morality. Does morality depend in some way on religious belief? Or does it have some independent status as a body of 'objective' truths? Or is it simply 'relative' to social customs or individual preferences of some kind? If so, can it be taken seriously? (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, what becomes of our freedom and moral responsibility?

**Assessment:** A written assignment of 500 words 10% (due early in the semester), a written assignment of 1500 words 40% (due mid semester), a 2-hour written examination (not open-book) 47% (due at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

**161-110 Global Justice and Human Rights**

**Availability:** 1st year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Karen Jones

**Contact:** Thirty-five contact hours per semester: two 1-hour lectures per week for the whole semester and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject is an introduction to social and political philosophy. It brings a global perspective to bear on traditional problems in political philosophy such as the nature and limits of justice, of freedom, and of human rights. The course examines rival contemporary philosophical accounts of justice within the nation-state as well as attempts to extend such accounts beyond national borders. It evaluates projects grounding human rights in personhood and considers the objection that human rights talk is western-centric. Concrete practical problems, including immigration and international development, provide a context for these theoretical investigations. On completion of the subject, students should (1) have developed skills in critical and theoretical thinking, (2) be able to explain and assess philosophical theories of justice, freedom, and rights, and (3) understand the philosophical issues raised by globalization.

**Assessment:** Best 5 (of 9) short tutorial assignments 15%, a written assignment of 1500 words 40% (due mid semester), and a 2-hour written examination (not open-book) 45% (due at the end of semester).

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

**161-111 Great Ideas in Philosophy**

**Availability:** 1st year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Douglas Adeney

**Contact:** Thirty-five contact hours per semester: two 1-hour lectures per week for the whole semester and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** This subject examines some fundamental and original philosophical ideas from various Western and Eastern sources. Topics will include Plato's division of the human soul into three parts, and the political significance of this; his view that the state should be ruled by true philosophers, who have knowledge of the Good; René Descartes' progress from profound scepticism to the certainty of his own existence and nature; George Berkeley's doctrine that matter has no existence outside perceiving minds; John Locke's view that your continuing identity as the person you are is provided by your memory; and Buddhist views on some of the same questions.

**Assessment:** A written assignment of 500 words 10% (due early in the semester), a written assignment of 1500 words 40% (due mid semester), a 2-hour written examination (not open-book) 47% (due at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

**161-115 Logic**

**Note:** Formerly available as 161-015. Students who have completed 161-015 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. The subject dates and HECS/course

fee census date for this subject change each year. Check your enrolment record for the correct census date for this subject.

**Availability:** 1st year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof Greg Restall

**Contact:** Summer Semester: Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per day for ten days (22nd January to 5th February). Semester One: Thirty-five contact hours during the semester - two 1-hour lectures per week for the whole semester and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 1, repeat Summer*).

**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:** Summer: One half-hour quiz 15% (during the teaching period), a take-home examination 45% (at the end of the teaching period), and an assignment 40% (due in March). Semester One: Three half-hour quizzes 47% (during the semester), tutorial participation 3%, and a 2-hour written examination (not open-book) 50% (held at the end of semester).

**Prescribed texts:** Greg Restall, *Logic*, Routledge 2006.

**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

**Semester:** Not Offered

**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.

**Second/third-year subjects****161-007 Great Thinkers in Moral Philosophy**

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Douglas Adeney

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

**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester; 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 critically studies three of the classic works of moral philosophy: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysic 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.

**Assessment:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour closed-book written examination 47% (held at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** Any edition of the three texts named above. A booklet of Supplementary Readings will also be made available.

**161-008 Basic Issues in Moral Theory**

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

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

**Semester:** Not Offered

**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.

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**161-009 Knowledge, Truth and Relativism****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Prerequisites:** At least one first-year single-semester philosophy subject or permission from the Head of School or subject coordinator.**Semester:** Not Offered**Description:** This subject examines the philosophical thesis that there is no absolute truth, knowledge or rationality; they 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.**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 recent writings and perspectives on some traditional topics in political philosophy, such as the basis and proper extent of equality and of liberty.**Assessment:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour closed-book written examination 47% (held at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 3%.**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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**161-014 Environmental Philosophy****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Prerequisites:** At least one first-year single-semester philosophy subject, or 121-171 Environmental Change, or permission from the Head of School 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.

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**161-016 Metatheory****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof Greg Restall**Prerequisites:** 161-115 Logic (*p.3*). Or, with permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator, 620-122 Mathematics B (Advanced), or 620-142 Mathematics B, or 433-255 Logic and Computation, or 620-211 Mathematics 2 (Advanced).**Contact:** Thirty-five contact hours per semester: two 1-hour lectures per week for the whole semester and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 1*).**Description:** This subject deals with selected topics in logic beyond what is covered in 161-115 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, eg. mathematics, linguistics, computer science).**Assessment:** Tutorial exercises 50% (throughout the semester), and a 2-hour written examination (not open-book) 50% (held at the end of semester).**Prescribed texts:** Richard Jeffrey, *Formal Logic: Its Scope and Limits*, 3rd edition.

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**161-017 Does God Exist?****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Coordinator:** Dr Bruce Langtry**Prerequisites:** A least one first-year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of School or subject coordinator.**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 philosophical examination of whether God exists. What arguments are there in favour of the existence of God? How good are they? What objections are there to the existence of God? How good are they? We'll concentrate on various specific issues, such as whether recent scientific discoveries about the origins and nature of the physical universe count in favour of the view that the physical universe was designed by some intelligent being.**Assessment:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour closed-book written examination 45% (held at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 5%.**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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**161-018 Philosophy of Art****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5

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**161-010 Scepticism and Reason****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Coordinator:** Dr Bruce Langtry**Prerequisites:** At least one single-semester first-year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator.**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 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.**Assessment:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour closed-book written examination 45% (held at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 5%.**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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**161-011 Manners of Meaning****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Coordinator:** Dr Allen Hazen**Prerequisites:** At least one first-year single-semester philosophy, anthropology or linguistics subject, or permission from the Head of School or subject coordinator.**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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:** An introduction to central issues in the philosophy of language.**Assessment:** Two written assignments of 2000 words each, one due mid-semester 47%, the second due at the end of semester 50%, and tutorial participation 3%.**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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**161-012 Classics of Political Thought****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Prerequisites:** At least one first-year single-semester philosophy subject or permission from the Head of School or subject coordinator.**Semester:** Not Offered**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.

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**161-013 Contemporary Political Philosophy****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Coordinator:** To be advised**Prerequisites:** At least one first-year single-semester philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of School or subject coordinator.

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

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** This subject will be concerned with the nature of art and its value for the individual and society. Particular attention will be paid to the critical discussion of representation in art which began with Plato in 5 BC, recurs in the 19th century with Schopenhauer and Nietzsche and again in the 20th century with Duchamp's proposal that art should be for the mind and not the eye.

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### 161-019 Greek Philosophy

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** To be advised

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

**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 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.

**Assessment:** Two written assignments of 2000 words, one due mid-semester 50%, the second due at the end of semester 47%, and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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### 161-020 Classics of Phenomenology

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

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

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### 161-021 From Hermeneutics to Derrida

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Marion Tapper

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

**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 it to interpret a text? How does an interpretation differ from a deconstruction? 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? 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:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour closed-book written examination 47% (due at the end of the semester) and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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### 161-024 Issues in Biomedical Ethics

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Mr Andrew Alexandra

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

**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 development and increasing prestige of modern medicine continues to generate ethical controversy. This subject will provide a way of making sense of these controversies: it will consider the nature of health, illness and disease, and discuss a number of particular issues, possibly including the status of mental illness, disability, abortion, genetic screening and modification, euthanasia and death.

**Assessment:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour written examination 47% (at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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### 161-027 Practical Ethics

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

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

**Semester:** Not Offered

**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 will include the following: the enforcement of morals, war and terrorism, privacy versus security, punishment, slavery.

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### 161-029 Philosophy and Literature

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Christopher Cordner

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

**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 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.

**Assessment:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour closed-book written examination 47% (held at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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### 161-030 The Rise of Modern Philosophy

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

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

**Semester:** Not Offered

**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 able to indicate awareness of how those issues are related to 20th century work.

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### 161-031 Philosophy of Christianity

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

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

**Semester:** Not Offered

**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.

**161-035 Philosophy of Buddhism**

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

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

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** This subject explores the central teachings and concepts of Buddhism as embodied in the Four Noble Truths. It does so by examining such core Buddhist concepts and contrasts as suffering and its cessation, enlightenment and ignorance, impermanence and emptiness and meditation. Reference to the Theravada, Mahayana and Zen traditions is made throughout the course.

**161-052 Ideas of Utopia**

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

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

**Semester:** Not Offered

**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.

**161-053 The Good Life in Ancient Thought**

**Note:** This is an intensive two-week subject offered at the beginning of January. Timetabling will be such that this subject and 161-054 Human Life in Modern Thought (*p.6*) can be taken concurrently. To be offered in alternate years. The subject dates and HECS/course fee census date for this subject change each year. Check your enrolment record for the correct census date for this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** To be advised

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

**Contact:** Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per day for 10 days (8th - 19th January) (*Summer semester*).

**Description:** The subject examines and critically compares a number of conceptions of good human life to be found in ancient Mediterranean philosophical and religious texts and traditions. These conceptions include those of Plato and Aristotle and their Greek successors the Stoics, Epicureans and Sceptics, and some from other sources such as the Roman, Jewish and Christian. 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.

**Assessment:** Two 2000-word essays due in March and April 50% each. Provision for earlier assessment can be made in approved cases, by special arrangement with the lecturer.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

**161-054 Human Life in Modern Thought**

**Note:** This is an intensive two-week subject offered at the beginning of January. Timetabling will be such that this subject and 161-053 The Good Life in Ancient Thought (*p.6*) can be taken concurrently. To be offered in alternate years. The subject dates and HECS/course fee census date for this subject change each year. Check your enrolment record for the correct census date for this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Rod Foster

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

**Contact:** Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per day for 10 days (8th - 19th January) (*Summer semester*).

**Description:** The subject examines some influential 19th and 20th century conceptions of human life and human nature, including some of 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?

**Assessment:** Two 2000-word essays due in March and April 50% each. Provision for earlier assessment can be made in approved cases, by special arrangement with the lecturer.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

**161-210 Philosophy of Logic**

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Prerequisites:** 161-115 Logic (*p.3*) or equivalent or permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator.

**Semester:** Not Offered

**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.

**161-211 Minds and Computers**

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

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

**Semester:** Not Offered

**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.

**161-212 Non-Classical Logic**

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Prerequisites:** 161-115 Logic (*p.3*) or with permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator, 620-122 Mathematics B (Advanced) or 620-142 Mathematics B or 433-255 Logic and Computation or 620-211 Mathematics 2 (Advanced).

**Semester:** Not Offered

**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 such as modal, temporal, intuitionistic, paraconsistent, relevant and substructural 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.

**161-213 Thinking in Asian Philosophy****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Prerequisites:** At least one single-semester first-year philosophy or Asian studies subject (in consultation with the lecturers) or permission from the Head of School or the lecturers in charge of the subject.**Semester:** Not Offered**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 study texts on Confucius, Dogen, and Indian philosophy. On completion of the subject students should have developed good knowledge and understanding of the process of thinking, reasoning and reflecting in Asian intellectual cultures, as well as an ability to articulate and evaluate these views.**161-214 The Philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof Barry Taylor**Prerequisites:** At least one single-semester first-year philosophy subject or permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator.**Contact:** Thirty two contact hours per semester: 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:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour closed-book written examination 47% (due at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 3%.**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, (any edition).**161-215 The Nature of Mind****Note:** This is an intensive two-week subject offered at the beginning of January. Timetabling will be such that this subject and 161-216 Science, Knowledge and Dogma (*p.7*) can be taken concurrently. The subject dates and HECS/course fee census date for this subject change each year. Check your enrolment record for the correct census date for this subject.**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Prerequisites:** Any two university subjects or equivalent or permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator.**Semester:** Not Offered**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.**161-216 Science, Knowledge and Dogma****Note:** This is an intensive two-week subject offered at the beginning of January. Timetabling will be such that this subject and 161-215 The Nature of Mind (*p.7*) can be taken concurrently. The subject dates and HECS/course fee census date for this subject change each year. Check your enrolment record for the correct census date for this subject.**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Prerequisites:** Any two university subjects or equivalent or permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator.**Semester:** Not Offered**Description:** This subject will address the nature and status of science, and rational belief within and outside science. Specific topics may include the roles of observation, value judgements and conventions in science, and whether science requires untestable metaphysical and epistemological assumptions.**161-217 Kant's Metaphysics of Experience****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Prerequisites:** At least one single-semester first-year philosophy subject or permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator.**Semester:** Not Offered**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.**161-235 Recent French Philosophy****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Coordinator:** To be advised**Prerequisites:** At least one first-year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator.**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 some of the most influential French philosophers from the second half of the 20th century. It introduces students to the various understandings of the nature and history of philosophy which have been articulated. It will examine the range of critical tools and strategies with which these philosophers have challenged traditional philosophy, and explore the alternatives where these are proposed. On completion of this subject students should have a critical understanding of the major movements in recent French philosophy and be able to compare and assess the cogency of the different positions.**Assessment:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour closed-book written examination 47% (due at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 3%.**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.**161-236 Nietzsche and the Dream of Reason****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Coordinator:** To be advised**Prerequisites:** At least one first-year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator.**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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:** Much philosophy in 19th century Europe reflects almost unlimited confidence in the power of reason to master not only the natural world, but the human world as well. Alongside this confidence, however, there exists deep scepticism about reason, even hostility towards it. A central figure in the second camp is Nietzsche. This course explores Nietzsche's attacks on reason in relation to some one other philosopher who centralises reason in a way to which Nietzsche is hostile. The other philosopher will usually be a 19th century figure, such as Kant or Hegel or Schiller, but may also be a figure from elsewhere in the history of philosophy who matters to Nietzsche's radical critique, for example Socrates.**Assessment:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour closed-book written examination 47% (due at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 3%.**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.**161-237 Analytic Philosophy****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**Coordinator:** Dr Allen Hazen

**Prerequisites:** At least one first-year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator.

**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 the philosophical tradition known as Analytic Philosophy. It will focus on central works by leading figures in this tradition, who include Bertrand Russell, GE Moore, Rudolf Carnap, WV Quine, JL Austin, and SA Kripke. Some variation in contents from year to year is envisaged, but most of the listed philosophers will be included each time the subject is offered. Their work is united by an emphasis on semantic analysis, and the subject will focus on the ways in which they have used semantic concepts to illuminate epistemological and metaphysical issues.

**Assessment:** Two written assignments of 2000 words each, one due mid-semester 47%, the second due at the end of semester 50%, and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 161-238 Body, Time and Spirit in Indian Thought

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** To be advised

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

**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 body and the worlds of space and time have often been construed as realms of bondage and illusion in Indian philosophy. Many key Indian philosophical ideas developed out of the desire to escape from these limitations of finitude and constraint. This subject explores selected themes in Indian thought, concerning conceptions of the body, theories of time and spirit, and pathways of liberation. The main areas of focus will be Hinduism, Buddhism and Tantrism, as well as the wider influence of these philosophical themes in some Indian arts and sciences such as Ayurvedic medicine and alchemy. Some Chinese and Japanese traditions influenced by Indian ideas will also be examined.

**Assessment:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour closed-book written examination 47% (due at the end of semester) and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 161-240 Chinese Philosophy

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Guy Petterson

**Prerequisites:** At least one first-year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of School, or the lecturer-in-charge of the subject.

**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 course on Chinese Philosophy focuses on the major philosophical schools of Classical China, including Confucianism, Mohism, and Daoism. Works produced in this period (12th century BCE; 221 BCE; Confucius born 551 BCE) exerted a profound influence over subsequent philosophical development in China, Korea, and Japan. In some years, the course may also examine later, neo-Confucian, developments in Chinese thinking and the philosophical legacy of Buddhism in China. A central topic of investigation will be Chinese theories of human nature and the connection between competing claims in moral psychology and competing moral and political theories. On completion of this course, students should be familiar with major thinkers and schools in Classical China; develop skill in comparative philosophy so as to enrich their readings of both Chinese and Western philosophical texts; be able to critically examine philosophical arguments derived from careful and critical readings of texts.

**Assessment:** One 2,000 word essay 50% (due mid semester), a 2 hour written examination (not open-book) 47% (at the end of the semester), and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 161-241 Mathematical Logic

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Allen Hazen

**Prerequisites:** Background in symbolic logic, eg. 161-016 Metatheory (*p.4*) or equivalent, or permission from the Head of School or subject coordinator.

**Contact:** Thirty-five contact hours per semester: two 1-hour lectures per week for the whole semester and a 1-hour tutorial per week beginning the second week of semester (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** Continuation of the subject 161-016 Metatheory (*p.4*), looking at issues in the foundations of mathematics and Gödel's incompleteness Theorem.

**Assessment:** Weekly exercises totalling 2000 words 30%, a 2-hour end-of-semester exam 67%, and tutorial participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 161-247 The Structure of Reality

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof Barry Taylor

**Prerequisites:** At least one first-year philosophy subject, or permission from the Head of School or the subject coordinator.

**Contact:** Thirty-two contact hours per semester: 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 introduces students to contemporary metaphysics, or more precisely to that branch of the subject known as ontology: traditionally described as 'the study of being'. We shall study the subject principally by examining the work of contemporary philosophers in the analytical tradition, such as the Americans W V O Quine and David Lewis, the English philosophers David Wiggins and Derek Parfit, and the Australian D M Armstrong. Typical of the topics discussed are the range of existing things: in what sense, if any, do minds, persons, numbers, fictional entities, and merely possible things exist, side by side with familiar material objects? We shall look at the role of identity criteria and of the possession of causal powers in deciding such issues. A further question concerns the existence of general things ('universals', such as redness) over and above the particular things in which they are instanced. On completing this subject, students should have a critical knowledge of the main issues in contemporary analytical metaphysics, and be in a position to go on to more advanced work in the area.

**Assessment:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid semester), tutorial participation 3%, and a 2-hour written examination (not open-book) 47% (at the end of the semester).

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

## Third-year subject

### 161-310 What is Philosophy?

**Availability:** 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Prof Graham Priest

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

**Contact:** A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1.5-hour seminar per week (*Semester 2*).

**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:** A written assignment of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester), a 2-hour closed-book written examination 47% (due at the end of the semester) and seminar participation 3%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

## Fourth-year subjects

### 161-504 Philosophy Thesis

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 25

**Coordinator:** Dr Allen Hazen

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

**Contact:** Fortnightly meetings with the supervisor over two consecutive semesters of enrolment plus attendance at a 1.5-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

**Description:** A supervised thesis on a topic to be approved by the Head of School or the School'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 100% (due at the end of the second semester of enrolment).

### 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

**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 1*).

**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:** A 5000-word essay 100% (due at the end of semester).

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 161-432 Topics in Moral Psychology

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

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

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** The subject examines recent philosophical developments in the study of the psychology of moral agents. Topics to be covered may include: (1) the role of reflection and inarticulate dispositions in our grasp of moral concepts; (2) the structure of practical deliberation; (3) the nature of autonomy; (4) the relation between values and the self; (5) the relevance of moral psychology to other areas of philosophy such as metaethics. At the completion of the subject, students should acquire the following skills: 1. a detailed knowledge of some of the main philosophical issues in contemporary moral psychology; and 2. a more sophisticated ability to assess and construct arguments.

### 161-433 Value Theory

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Christopher Cordner

**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 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.

**Assessment:** A 5000-word essay 100% (due at the end of semester).

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 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

**Coordinator:** Dr Bruce Langtry

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

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture/seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** Selected issues in contemporary epistemology and metaphysics. The focus for 2007 will be on the implications of divine rationality and goodness for God's overall providential policies; attention will be paid to the problem of evil as an objection to the existence of God.

**Assessment:** A 5000-word essay 100% (due at the end of semester).

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 161-435 Topics in Continental 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

**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 a topic or topics, or a single text, in continental philosophy, chosen from between the beginning of the 19th century and the present.

**Assessment:** An essay of 5000 words 100% (due at the end of semester)

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 161-436 Issues in Analytic Metaphysics

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**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 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 translates the traditional problem into one of the interpretation and legitimation of formalised languages. Original writings by figures such as Bertrand Russell and WV 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:** A 5000 word essay 100% (due at the end of semester).

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 161-437 Topics in Applied Ethics

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof Igor Primoratz

**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 and public policy. The subject asks students to use skills in philosophical reasoning and knowledge of philosophical theory in such areas as moral, political, and legal philosophy, along with relevant empirical information, in order to devise solutions and assess proposals concerning selected practical problems. Students will become familiar with the recent literature in such journals as the Journal of Applied Philosophy and Ethics.

**Assessment:** A 5000-word essay 100% (due at the end of semester).

**Prescribed texts:** To be advised

### 161-438 Logic and Philosophy

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof Greg Restall

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in philosophy, and completion of two second/third-year philosophy subjects. No particular expertise with formal logic will be required beyond 161-115 Logic (*p.3*). However, experience in logic at second and third year is desirable together with interests in contemporary research in philosophy.

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture/seminar per week (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** This subject will focus on the development of logic and its applications in other areas of philosophy such as philosophy of language, epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. In the work of Frege, Husserl, Russell, Wittgenstein, Carnap and their intellectual descendants, logic has grown hand-in-hand with these topics. The subject will focus on work at these fertile boundaries between disciplines. This year, we will concentrate on the nature and structure of proof and connections between interference and the theory of meaning. This course will contain both a formal component (where we look at different formal systems and examine their properties) and a discursive component, where we look at implications and applications to philosophical disputes over realism and anti-realism, the nature of quantification and reference to objects, and the connection between modality to the ontology of possible worlds.

**Assessment:** A 5000-word essay 100% (due at the end of semester).

**Prescribed texts:** A booklet of readings will be made available by the School.

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**161-439 Rationality****Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**Coordinator:** Dr Karen Jones**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in philosophy.**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture/seminar per week (*Semester 1*).**Description:** Human agents are often thought to be differentiated from animal agents in virtue of possessing the capacity for rationality. This class examines recent work on the nature of rationality. In some years the focus will be on issues in theoretical rationality, in other years on issues in practical rationality. Topics to be covered will be drawn from but not limited to: (1) Emotion and reason: Are emotions assessable for rationality? What contribution do they make to our rationality? (2) Action explanation: What is a rationalizing explanation? (3) Epistemic and practical norms: What is the significance of empirical work for philosophical accounts of rationality? Do well-entrenched norms of rationality survive scrutiny? (4) Gender and rationality: Does the concept of rationality display gender-bias?**Assessment:** A 5000-word essay 100% (due at the end of semester).**Prescribed texts:** A booklet of readings will be made available by the School.

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**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**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?

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**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**Coordinator:** Mr Andrew Alexandra**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:** A 5000-word essay 100% (due at the end of semester).**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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**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**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:** A 5000-word essay 100% (due at the end of semester).**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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**161-447 Topics in Advanced 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**Coordinator:** Prof Priest, Dr Hazen, Ass Prof Restall**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in philosophy and completion of two second/third-year philosophy logic subjects or equivalent.**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:** A 5000 word essay 100% (due at the end of semester).**Prescribed texts:** To be advised

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**161-448 Topics in Asian Philosophy****Note:** This subject is devoted to a study of some aspect or aspects of one or more Asian philosophies. These may change from year to year, depending on the interests of students and staff.**Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**Coordinator:** Prof Graham Priest**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 asks students to engage with the thought of some of the great East Asian philosophers and their commentators, understanding them, and developing their own ideas in response. The topics discussed will involve some of the following: metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political philosophy, and history of philosophy, within the Asian traditions. On completion of the subject, students should have developed a sound understanding of the particular topic for that year, including a grasp of any primary texts used (in translation), and some of the secondary literature on these. They should be able to explain and evaluate the ideas concerned, and to articulate their own positions on the matters covered.**Assessment:** A 5000-word essay 100% (due at the end of semester).**Prescribed texts:** To be advised by the supervisor