PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR
Dr Brian Brock (b.brock@abdn.ac.uk; office hours by appointment)

 Discipline Administration:
Mrs Claire Hargaden
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 272366
divrs@abdn.ac.uk

TIMETABLE
Lecture: Tuesdays, 2pm-5pm; King’s College (KCG8)

Students can view their university timetable at
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will help students excavate and clarify their own moral beliefs through engagement with a wide range of cinematic depictions of our contemporary world. Exploring questions of economic ethics, political ethics, as well as our relationships with disabled people, animals and the environment (and much more), students will be given the opportunity to develop and present their own views in classroom discussions which will be complemented by lectures clarifying the importance of engaging such questions as active citizens.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will enhance the cultural and political competence of students by teaching them to read cinematic forms of communication with greater skill and orally to discuss and debate contemporary moral questions. The aim is for students to becoming more aware of their own positions and ethical assumptions. The course will also expose students to the variety of academic disciplines and methods that can be used to explore such issues.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

WEEK 1: 15th September
Introduction to course, practice discussion about Frontline documentary, “College Inc.”

WEEK 2: 22nd September
“The Internet’s Own Boy”

WEEK 3: 29th September
“Inside Job”

WEEK 4: 6th October
“Into Eternity”

WEEK 5: 13th October
“Wasteland”

WEEK 6: 20th October
“You’ve Been Trumped”

WEEK 7: 27th October
“Our Daily Bread”
WEEK 8: 3rd November
“Project NIM”

WEEK 9: 10th November
“Stop at Nothing: The Lance Armstrong Story”

WEEK 10: 17th November
“Horse Boy”

WEEK 11: 24th November
“Sex Change Soldier”

READING LIST
A bibliography associated with the topics discussed in class will be provided in class.

ASSESSMENT

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

Assessment will be 100% by continuous assessment. The formal assessment of students will be by way of 500 word response papers submitted in the course of the term.

This course is a practice-based course. Students must understand that the work of the course will happen in the three hour lecture session, and that attendance is mandatory.

Class discussions will be covering controversial issues, and part of the learning process will be for students to learn to speak respectfully with other students about contentious and emotive issues. We will discuss in the first class session the expectations regarding conversational respectfulness, and a red-card system will be in place. Students whose behaviour prevents class conversation happening may be asked to leave the course.
There are two tracks for the formal assessment for the course:

a) **Five Short Reflection Papers**: (20% each)

Students will submit **five short reflections (500 words)** on the previous week’s discussions. The **topic** for the paper is “How I changed my mind.” A good paper will begin by setting out the moral position the student once held and then explain the new moral position they have come to inhabit. Some explanation will need to be given about what the most important reasons for the change were, making reference either to the documentary viewed or the discussion about it in class afterward. Students should note that they will be penalised for essays that stray more than 10% above or below the 500 word essay word limit.

b) **Four reflection papers and one oral presentation as group representative in class discussion** (10% oral presentation, 10% outline of main points of presentation, plus 4 reflection papers, 20% each).

Students who take on the role of leading a discussion will be allowed to substitute their performance in that role for one of the reflection papers (as described above). The job of a group representative is to summarize in writing the main points of discussion, then present and defend the position of the group in front of the whole class. Students will not normally get to be group representative more often than once in the term.

[Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).](#)

[Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).](#)

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

Each reflection paper is due **one the week after the topic was discussed in class** at the **beginning of next week’s class, 2pm**. Late paper will be accepted
only under exceptional circumstances, with a doctor or university note of explanation.

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Submit **one paper copy**, with your name on it, upon arrival in class, and also **one electronic copy** to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies are to be submitted by 2pm on the due date.

Please note: The hard copy will be the paper marked, and the one that must be in by 2PM on the due date. However, failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

**EXAMINATION**

There is no examination in this course.

**RESIT INFORMATION**

Resit involves resubmission of course work.

Access to the resit which is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been submitted and graded at CAS 6 or higher.
- Student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7s are not eligible for resits.