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 Organisation 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/COURSE TEAM
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**TIMETABLE**
Please see your Student Portal or MyTimetable for the class timetable.
Students can view their university timetable at
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course we will be examining a wide-ranging series of controversial questions:

- Is being a good or a bad person a matter of luck? And if being bad is just a matter of (bad) luck, are we justified in punishing bad people?

- Is science objective?

- Do we have immaterial souls?

- Should we restrict immigration?

- Should we be able to modify the genes of our offspring in order to avoid the transmission of genetic disease? Should we be able to modify genes responsible for appearance, intelligence or athletic ability?

- Do you have a moral obligation to help those who are worse-off than you, even if this means donating a lot—or even most—of your money to charity?
- Is euthanasia morally wrong or should it be permitted?

- Do animals have rights? If so, is eating animals immoral? And can we ever be justified in using them for experiments?

- Should there be limits on the freedom of speech on individuals?

**INTENDED AIDS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will acquire knowledge of central debates in contemporary philosophy and of key philosophical questions about animal rights, the objectivity of science, the immortality of the soul, euthanasia, immigration, moral luck and other controversial topics. Students will understand the main ideas in each of these debates and will be able to explain differences between various positions in these debates. Students will critically engage with primary texts and will articulate the results of their learning clearly and systematically in written form and in discussion.

**LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

There will be two lectures per week and, beginning from Week 2, one tutorial per week. It is your responsibility to sign up to one of the available tutorial slots. Once you have chosen your slot, please attend only the tutorial in that slot: not attending your chosen tutorial can create difficulties for your lecturers and fellow students. Here is a schedule of lectures (subject to change)

|-------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 3 | 25 Sep 2017 - 29 Sep 2017 | Do we have immaterial souls?  
| Week 4 | 02 Oct 2017 - 06 Oct 2017 | Is science objective?  
**Reading:** *Feyerabend, Paul (1975): Against Method. London: NLB. 339 p. [read chapters 1 and 7 (except pp. 90 [top]-92 of the 1st edition (1975); these are the last three pages of ch. 7; page numbers of later editions differ!]). Background: Maria Baghramian (2008): ‘Relativism about science’. In S. Psillos and M. Curd (eds.): *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Science*, p. 236-247 (ch. 22). |
| Week 5 | 09 Oct 2017 - 13 Oct 2017 | Should we restrict immigration?  
| Week 6 | 16 Oct 2017 - 20 Oct 2017 | What do we owe to those in extreme poverty?  
| Week 7 | 23 Oct 2017 - 27 Oct 2017 | Should we be permitted to affect the genetic make-up of our offspring?  
| Should freedom of speech ever be limited? |
|-------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8     | 30 Oct 2017 - 03 Nov 2017 | **Is euthanasia morally permissible?**  
| 9     | 06 Nov 2017 - 10 Nov 2017 | **Is being a good/bad person a matter of luck?**  
**Video:** Kumar, V. ‘The Problem of Moral Luck’, available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvqJ-s26ol4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvqJ-s26ol4) |
| 10    | 13 Nov 2017 - 17 Nov 2017 | Controversial Questions in Philosophy |
| 11    | 20 Nov 2017 - 24 Nov 2017 | **Controversial Questions in Philosophy** |

**ASSESSMENT**

1st Attempt: One 1000-word essay (50%) and one take-home exam (50%).

Resit: One 1500-word essay (100%). In line with School Policy, failure to submit a component piece of assessed work, or submitting a token piece, will result in the withdrawal of the class certificate (students are not eligible for resit).

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to [MyAberdeen- Organisations- Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates](#). The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

**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.
If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will **normally be provided within three working weeks** (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

**ESSAYS**

Your essay should be 1000 words long plus or minus 10% (i.e. strictly between 900 and 1100 words), including quotations and footnotes but not including bibliography. You will be penalised for work whose word count falls outside of this range. Essays are due by 3pm on Friday October 27th. Extensions will be granted on medical grounds only and proof of grounds will be required. To ask for an extension, please contact Dr Torre before the essay deadline. **Barring extraordinary circumstances, no extensions will be given if you ask after the deadline.** Please note that late submission will be penalized in accord with the rules set out in the Undergraduate Handbook.

Essay topics will be provided in due course and will be available on the MyAberdeen pages of the course.

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

The deadline for the essay is 3pm on Friday 27th October.
The deadline for the take-home exam is to be determined. You will be notified of the take-home deadline in lecture and via MyAberdeen.

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Submit a .doc or .docx file and include the word count.

Submit by the due date through [MyAberdeen](#). No hard copy will be required unless directly requested by the course coordinator.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student id number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 PHxxxx Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 PHxxxx Essay 1. To help us
comply with our anonymous marking policy, please remove any immediately identifying information (e.g. your name) from your work.

Please note: failure to submit by the due date (unless a prior arrangement has been made) will result in a deduction of marks. Where no submission is received, this will result in a mark of zero.

Please note: Safeassign text matching software will be used, however the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy reserves the right to also submit material to TurnitinUK when deemed necessary.

EXAMINATION

This course has a take-home exam (50%) that will require short essay responses to two questions. Further details about the take-home exam will be made available in lecture and through MyAberdeen.

Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/.