SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2017-2018

PH1522 HOW SHOULD ONE LIVE?

15 CREDITS, 11 WEEKS

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
Dr Michael Laffin
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Office hours: see MyAberdeen

Discipline Administration:
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50-52 College Bounds
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01224 272366
philosophy@abdn.ac.uk
TIMETABLE
Students will attend two one-hour lectures and one one-hour tutorial per week. Lectures begin in week 1. Tutorials begin in week 2.

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION
How should human beings live their lives, as individuals and as members of societies? Are there fixed rules about what is ‘good’ and ‘bad’? Where do those rules come from, and why should we follow them? In this course we explore some of the many ways in which philosophers have answered these questions, from ancient Greece to the present day. We will cover some different approaches to ethics, such as natural law theory, deontology, and utilitarianism, and consider how, according to them, we should exercise our freedom, solve moral problems, treat other people, and form good societies.

COURSE AIMS

- To introduce students to central topics in ethical and political philosophy
- To introduce students to a range of philosophical positions and texts, both historical and contemporary, in ethical and political philosophy
- To introduce students to a range of philosophical responses to questions and problems in ethics and politics
- To develop students’ skills of reading and engaging critically with primary texts
- To develop students’ skills of critical thinking, writing, argumentation, and debate
LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will have acquired knowledge of central topics in ethical and political philosophy
- Students will understand the main ideas of a range of philosophical positions, and will be able to explain the major differences between them
- Students will understand how different philosophical positions may be used to address ethical and political problems
- Students will have critically engaged with primary texts
- Students will have articulated the results of their learning clearly and systematically in written form and discussion.

LECTURE & TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

The general structure of the course is as below. (Please note: Tutorials begin in week 2.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Tue 16 Jan 4pm</td>
<td>Introduction to Moral Theory/Hedonism</td>
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<td>Fri 19 Jan 2pm</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Tue 23 Jan 4pm</td>
<td>Desire Theory: Getting what you want/Consequentialism &amp; Utilitarianism I</td>
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<td>Fri 26 Jan 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Tue 30 Jan 4pm</td>
<td>Consequentialism &amp; Utilitarianism II</td>
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<td>Fri 2 Feb 2pm</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Tue 6 Feb 4pm</td>
<td>Kantian Deontology</td>
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<td>Fri 9 Feb 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Tue 13 Feb 4pm</td>
<td>Egoism</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fri 16 Feb 2pm</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Tue 20 Feb 4pm</td>
<td>Social Contract Theory</td>
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<td>Fri 23 Feb 2pm</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Tue 27 Feb 4pm</td>
<td>Morality and Religion</td>
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<td>Fri 2 Mar 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Tue 6 Mar 4pm</td>
<td>Natural Law</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fri 9 Mar 2pm</td>
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The table below indicates the topics and readings to be covered each week. Reading should be completed in advance of tutorial each week. Full details of the texts are listed under “TEXTS” below. Additionally, tutorial worksheets will be provided on MyAberdeen to assist in preparation for each week’s tutorial and should be completed in advance of the tutorial.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK NUMBER (and Date)</th>
<th>TUTORIAL TOPIC</th>
<th>REQUIRED READING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (week commencing 15 Jan)</td>
<td>NO TUTORIAL</td>
<td>Shafer-Landau, <em>The Fundamentals of Ethics</em>, Introduction and Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 (w/c 29 Jan)</td>
<td>Desire Theory</td>
<td>Shafer-Landau, <em>The Fundamentals of Ethics</em>, Chapters 3 and 4</td>
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</tbody>
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Spring Break | ---- | ----
Week 12 (w/c 23 Apr) | NO TUTORIAL | Shafer-Landau, *The Fundamentals of Ethics*, Chapters 20 and 21 (optional, chapter 19)

TEXTS


The textbook is available in Blackwell’s for £22.99. There are also 10 copies available on Heavy Demand in the Duncan Rice Library. In addition to the textbook, there will be short readings from important primary texts required most (but not all) weeks. These will be provided on MyAberdeen. A recommended reading list and bibliography organized by topic will be provided on MyAberdeen.

ASSESSMENT

1st Attempt: One 1500-word essay (50%) and one take-home exam (50%).

Resit: One 1500 word essay (100%)
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
Essays should be 1500 words long, including quotations and footnotes;
students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too
long or too short (i.e., that is more than 10% over or under the indicated word
count).

LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS
The set essay topic(s) will be posted on MyAberdeen at the beginning of the
half-session. Essay topics will also be discussed in lecture near the beginning
of the half-session.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES
The essay is due on Wednesday 28th February 2018 by 3pm.
The take home exam is due on Wednesday 2nd May 2018 by 3pm (and will be
made available on Wednesday 25th April on 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. 599999999 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. 599999999 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. General exam guidance will be given in the Student Handbook.

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