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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Discipline Administration:
Mr Warwick Brown
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 272366
philosophy@abdn.ac.uk

Students are asked to make themselves familiar with the information on key institutional policies which have been made available within MyAberdeen (https://abdn.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/institution/Policies). These policies are relevant to all students and will be useful to you throughout your studies. They contain important information and address issues such as what to do if you are absent, how to raise an appeal or a complaint and how seriously the University takes your feedback.

These institutional policies should be read in conjunction with this course guide, in which School specific policies are detailed. Further information can be found on the University's Infohub webpage or by visiting the Infohub.

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?

- Do we live in a post-truth world? What does that even mean?

- 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?

- What makes a sexual preference or act perverted?

INTENDED AIMS 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>17 Sep 2018 - 21 Sep 2018</td>
<td><strong>Should Animal Experimentation be Permitted?</strong></td>
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**Week 3**  
24 Sep 2018 - 28 Sep 2018  

**Do we live in a post-truth world?**
https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2017/sep/17/is-this-really-a-post-truth-world  


**Week 4**  
01 Oct 2018 - 05 Oct 2018  
**Do we have immaterial souls?**


**Week 5**  
08 Oct 2018 - 12 Oct 2018  
**Do animals have feelings?**


**Week 6**  
15 Oct 2018 - 19 Oct 2018  
**What do we owe to those in extreme poverty?**

**Week 7**  
22 Oct 2018 - 26 Oct 2018  
**Should we be permitted to affect the genetic make-up of our offspring?**

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<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>29 Oct 2018 - 02 Nov 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Is euthanasia morally permissible?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>05 Nov 2018 - 09 Nov 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Is being a good/bad person a matter of luck?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Video:</strong> Kumar, V. ‘The Problem of Moral Luck’, available at: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvqJ-s26ol4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvqJ-s26ol4</a></td>
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<th>Week 10</th>
<th>12 Nov 2018 - 16 Nov 2018</th>
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<td><strong>Are We Implicitly Biased against other genders or ethnic groups?</strong></td>
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<th>Week 11</th>
<th>19 Nov 2018 - 23 Nov 2018</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Controversial Questions in Philosophy</strong></td>
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**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](https://www.my aberdeen.ac.uk/divinity/histphi/studentinformation). 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 19th. 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 19th 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. 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.

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