

ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-2019

PH306D Contemporary Topics in Philosophy

30 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**

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## **TIMETABLE**

Students can view their university timetable at

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php>

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This team-taught course is designed to expose students to topics of contemporary research interest. Each lecturer will teach 3-4 weeks of the course on topics related to their current research. The general theme of the course for this academic year is: *Human and Non-Human Minds*. Accordingly, the classes and tutorials of the course will cover issues and problems of: general philosophy of mind, animal minds, artificial minds (AI), and epistemology of various mental states and processes. Students will choose to write assessments from this broad spectrum of topics.

## **INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **AIMS**

1. To expose students to a range of cutting edge philosophical topics.
2. To provide students with an understanding of key issues and theories in various debates in contemporary philosophical research from different branches of philosophy.
3. To provide students with an opportunity to develop their written and oral argumentative skills.
4. To familiarize students with research interests of our Department's members in preparation for their dissertation.

### **OUTCOMES**

1. A familiarity with particular areas of philosophy in current development.
2. An ability to evaluate the significance of current philosophical problems, and the plausibility, advantages or limits of theories proposed as responses to these problems;
3. An ability to explain the differences among various theories of current interest in philosophy.

4. An ability to critically engage with primary texts.
5. An ability to articulate the results of learning clearly and concisely in written and oral form.

### **LECTURE/TUTORIAL PROGRAMME**

90-minute lecture weeks 1-6 and 8-11 plus 90-minute tutorial weeks 2-6 and 8-11.

**NOTE:** in week 7 students write the 2500-word essay and have no classes.

Each lecture is meant to introduce a specific topic and supply the notional background required to understand the article(s) or book chapter(s) discussed in the correlated tutorial in the same week.

### **READING LIST**

The list of topics/readings will be available at the beginning of the course

### **ASSESSMENT**

One 2500-word essay (50%) and one 2000-word take-home essay (50%).

Resit: one 3000-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.**

## ESSAYS

The first essay should be 2500 words long and the take-home essay should be 2000 words long. The required final bibliography must *not* be included the word-count (but everything else must be). Work that is either too long or too short ( $\pm 10\%$ ) will be penalised. (Please email the relevant lecturer for further details.)

The topic/title of the 2500-word essay must concern one or more subjects surveyed in weeks 2-6 of the course and must be agreed in advance with the relevant lecturer. The topic/title of the 2000-word take-home essay must concern one or more subjects surveyed in weeks 8-11 of the course and must be agreed in advance with the relevant lecturer.

## ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

The 2500-word essay is due on 29<sup>th</sup> of October at 3pm.

The 2000-word take-home essay is due on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December at 3pm.

## SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

**Please submit by the deadline only one electronic copy (no cover sheet or hard copy is required) as follows:**

It must be typed and double-spaced. **Your ID number must be written at the beginning of the paper but your name must not appear anywhere.**

Submit the copy through Turnitin via [MyAberdeen](https://myabern.ac.uk). (For instructions please see <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/> )

Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt, so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

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.

The essay must be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date

**Failure to submit the electronic copy to Turnitin will result in a zero mark.**

**N.B. Turnitin doesn't accept Mac documents in Pages. If using a Mac please go to File and export work as a Word document.**