



Values and Society Course Descriptor

Course Title	Values and Society	Faculty	Philosophy
Course Code	NCHPH734	Course Leader	Dr Christoph Schuringa
Credit Points	20	Teaching Period	Any
FHEQ Level	Level 7	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Compulsory		
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisites	None		

COURSE SUMMARY

These seminars in value theory and practical philosophy are specially designed to cultivate the research and oral presentation skills that are requisite for a career in the philosophy profession as well as supportive of an informed, reflective and thoughtful approach applicable beyond academic settings. They also help prepare students for their dissertation viva. Students' summative work can be on a topic of their choice from a wide selection offered at the start of each term by the course leader.

COURSE AIMS

The aim of this course is to:

- enhance students' research and presentation skills.
- develop students' skills in the interpretation and analysis of diverse philosophical theories and arguments, and enable them to form and defend their own estimates of the merits of alternative positions on a wide range of issues in philosophy.
- promote students' ability to present their ideas clearly, in both written and oral formats.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- K2d Engage sensitively, constructively and creatively with philosophical texts and theories from a wide range of periods and sub-disciplines and employ philosophical devices to support, challenge, or adapt, key positions.

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC SKILLS

- S1d Effectively navigate philosophical resources and institutions, particularly in relation to conference presentations, PhD applications, and the publication process.
- S2d Present philosophical positions clearly and develop sophisticated philosophical arguments in both written and oral formats.

TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- T1d Show self-direction in working independently, creatively, and to deadlines.
- T2d Source, organize, and synthesize, information, question assumptions, and engage with competing arguments.
- T3d Produce original, clear, sophisticated, and persuasive oral and written presentations on complex topics.
- T3d Consistently apply an excellent level of technical proficiency in written English, using an advanced application of scholarly terminology, that demonstrates the ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and with sophistication.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teaching and learning strategies for this course will include:

- 20 hours of full-cohort seminars

Course-specific learning and teaching will be by means of:

- Seminars
- Individual feedback on presentations
- (Structured) independent study and research
- Online discussion forum

Course information and supplementary materials are available on the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Students are required to attend and participate in all the formal and timetabled sessions for this course.. Students are also expected to manage their directed learning and independent study in support of the course.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

The study of philosophy cultivates skills that are employable across a range of sectors. These include the abilities to:

- Work independently, creatively, and to deadlines.
- Conduct research and explore relevant existing knowledge.
- Analyse, contextualise, and interpret complex ideas and materials.
- Synthesise and evaluate information against a backdrop of uncertainty.
- Solve problems through logical reasoning.
- Present findings and opinions in a clear, structured manner, whether orally or in writing.
- Engage in collaborative and constructive discussion.

ASSESSMENT

FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental feedback, orally delivered.

SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in two forms:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Presentation	70%	No	20 mins	N/A
2	Slides or handout	30%	Yes	N/A	800-1500 words

Both the presentation and the slides/handout will be assessed in accordance with the assessment aims set out in the Programme Specification.

FEEDBACK

Students will receive oral feedback during seminars, and written feedback on their summative assignments. Students will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their performance.

Feedback is provided on summative assessment and is made available to the student either via email, the VLE or another appropriate method.

INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

BOOKS

Foot, Philippa, 'The Problem of Abortion and the Doctrine of the Double Effect' [1967], in her *Virtues and Vices* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Marx, Karl, selections from *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts* ('Estranged Labour', 'Private Property and Communism', 'The Meaning of Human Requirements'), in Robert C. Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader* (New York: Norton, 1972).

Mills, Charles, *The Racial Contract* (Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 1997), section I: 'Overview'.

Taylor, Charles, 'The Politics of Recognition', in Taylor et al., *Multiculturalism and the Politics of Recognition* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992).

ARTICLES

Anscombe, G. E. M., 'Modern Moral Philosophy', *Philosophy* 124 (1958).

Jarvis Thomson, Judith, 'Killing, Letting Die and the Trolley Problem', *The Monist* 59:2 (1976).

Korsgaard, Christine M., 'Two Distinctions in Goodness', *The Philosophical Review* 92:2 (1983).

INDICATIVE TOPICS

- The good and goodness
- Duty
- Consequence
- Virtue
- Contract and History
- Alienation
- Identity and Diversity

Title: NCHPH734 Values and Society Course Descriptor					
Approved by: Academic Board					
Location: Academic Handbook/Programme specifications and Handbooks/ Postgraduate Programme Specifications/MA Philosophy Programme Specification/Philosophy Course Descriptors					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Owner	Proposed next review date	Modification (As per AQF4) & category number
2.0	January 2022	April 2022	Brian Ball	April 2025	Category 3: Changes to Course Learning Outcomes
1.0	June 2020	June 2020	Brian Ball	April 2025	