

School of Philosophy and Bioethics

Later Year Subjects in Philosophy & Bioethics for 2009
Caulfield, Clayton

More information on the Philosophy Home Page: www.arts.monash.edu.au/philosophy-bioethics

The Philosophy department offers units in flexible delivery mode in semesters 1 and 2 and also in summer semester. For further details see our Flexible Learning flier.

Units offered in on-campus *and* flex-mode are indicated by a  icon

Units offered at a glance

First semester

CHB2/3100 Ethics, Ownership, and the Genetic Marketplace (V)

INT2/3920 The Ethics of Global Conflict Ethics [Caulfield & Clayton] (V)

PHL2150 Ethics [Caulfield, Clayton & Gippsland] (V)

PHL2/3170 Symbolic Logic (L)

PHL2210 Thinking about Science (M)

PHL2670 Philosophy of Religion (M)

PHL2/3850 Indian Philosophy [Caulfield & Clayton] (H, M)

PHL3100 Philosophical Issues in Applied Ethics (V)

PHL3410 Theory of Knowledge (M)

PHL3430 The Philosophy of JP Sartre & Simone de Beauvoir (V, M)

PHL3590 Mind and Meaning (L, M)

Second semester

PHL2110 Res Cogitans (M, H)

PHL2/3115 Making Knowledge (H)

PHL2130 Plato and Platonism (H, V)

PHL2650 Philosophy of Mind [Caulfield, Clayton & Gippsland] (M)

PHL2/3330 Issues in Political Theory (V)

PHL2/3810 Environmental Ethics [Caulfield & Clayton] (V)

PHL3570 Recent Logic (L)

PHL3690 Metaphysics (M)

PHL3890 Science, Happiness and Death in Stoic and Epicurean Philosophy (M, H)

Likely differences in 2010

These additional subjects will probably be available in on-campus mode in 2010:

INT2910 - Poverty, Ecology, and International Justice

PHL2/3510 Political Philosophy

PHL3240 Aristotle and Aristotelianism

PHL3790 Issues in Logical Theory

These subjects probably will not be available in on-campus mode in 2010:

INT2/3920 The Ethics of Global Conflict (V)

PHL3430 Philosophy of Sartre and de Beauvoir

PHL2/3330 Issues in Political Theory (V)

PHL3570 Recent Logic (L)

Any other subjects not mentioned in this column will typically be offered every year.

Subjects available in flexible delivery mode are typically available in that mode every year.

Planning your major

If you plan to achieve a major, it is a good idea to make sure you expose yourself to a variety of subjects. Subjects offered at Monash can be grouped into four broad streams: History (H); Logic and Language (L); Metaphysics & Epistemology (M); and Value Theory (V). All of the subjects above are followed by letters indicating what streams they fall under.

By the end of your major, you should try to ensure you have done at least one subject in each of at least three different streams. You should also try to ensure that at third year level you have done subjects in at least two different streams.

Take care when choosing subjects at 2nd year level that you are leaving yourself plenty of options to study a variety of third year units. Units like PHL2150, PHL2170, and PHL2650 are often mentioned in the pre-requisites for other units, so you might want to make sure that you do at least one of these.

For further advice on planning your major, contact the Undergraduate Coordinator, PhilBio.UGCoordinator@arts.monash.edu.au

Subjects listed by unit code

Note that the following listing does not include subjects offered only in flexible delivery mode. For those subjects, consult the guide to flexible delivery offerings.

CHB2100

Bioethics, the Human Body and the International Marketplace

Linda Barclay

6 points • 2 hours per week • First semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: A first-year sequence including at least one of: CHB1010, CHB1020, PHL1010

Synopsis: This unit examines some key ethical and policy issues raised by developments in biotechnology, as a significant component of the global trade in knowledge and services, such as gene patenting and the commercialisation of human tissue and body parts. The unit begins by focusing on different ethical perspectives in bioethics. Following this there will be discussion of topics such as: the ethics of DNA patenting, the selling of human tissue and organs, commodification and objectification, the social responsibilities of scientists, and the nature and significance of genetic parenthood.

CHB3100

Bioethics, the Human Body and the International Marketplace

Linda Barclay

6 points • 2 hours per week • First semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: A first-year sequence including at least one of: CHB1010, CHB1020, PHL1010

Synopsis: As for CHB2100, with more advanced requirements for assessment.

INT2920

The Ethics of Global Conflict

Dirk Baltzly & Rob Sparrow

6 points • 3 hours per week • First semester • Clayton and Caulfield • **Prerequisites:** A first-year sequence in International studies, Philosophy, or Bioethics.

N.B. This unit can count towards a major in Philosophy or in International Studies.

Synopsis: When, if ever, is warfare justified? What about humanitarian intervention? What about violent revolution and terrorism? Why should civilians be protected in conflict? This unit will introduce students to theoretical approaches to the ethics of conflict that will allow them to answer these difficult questions. It will also serve to introduce students to basic ideas in moral and political philosophy. No background in philosophy is required: merely an interest in rational argument applied to global conflict.

INT3920

The Ethics of Global Conflict

Dirk Baltzly & Rob Sparrow

6 points • 3 hours per week • First semester • Clayton and Caulfield • **Prerequisites:** A first-year sequence in International studies, Philosophy, or Bioethics.

N.B. This unit can count towards a major in Philosophy or in International Studies.

Synopsis: As for INT2910, with more advanced requirements for assessment.

PHL2110

Res Cogitans: Descartes on mind and meaning

Aubrey Townsend

6 points • 2 hours per week • Second semester • Clayton •
This subject is also offered in Distance Mode in every semester using on-line resources through MUSO •
Prerequisites: A first-year unit in Philosophy.

Synopsis The *Meditations* of Descartes set the agenda for modern philosophical debates in Epistemology and Metaphysics. Among the topics Descartes discussed were scepticism about commonsense and scientific beliefs, certainty, the existence of God, the nature of belief and judgement, the existence of the material objects and their relation to the mind, and the nature of the self. In all these areas his views have been influential and of continuing relevance to on-going philosophical discussion. The subject will examine the entire Cartesian system, and follow some of its themes into contemporary philosophy.

PHL2115

Making Knowledge: Modern Scientific Controversies

Homer Le Grand

6 points • 2 hours per week • Second semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: 12 points in Philosophy, History or Social Sciences, or 18 points in Science at any level.

Synopsis: The analysis of controversies over knowledge claims in science - claims about data, instruments, techniques, theories and world-views - reveals the provisional, revisable and dynamic character of scientific knowledge. This often results in controversies within one or more disciplines, the resolution of which may be the inclusion, removal or modification of what is accepted by the scientific community as valid knowledge. Student will gain a familiarity with several competing interpretations of this process and how these may be applied to a range of past and present controversies drawn primarily from the earth sciences.

PHL3115 Making Knowledge: Modern Scientific Controversies

Homer Le Grand

6 points • 2 hours per week • Second semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: 12 points in Philosophy, History or Social Sciences, or 18 points in Science at any level.

Synopsis As for PHL2115, with suitable differences in the level of assessment for a 3rd year subject.

PHL2130 Plato and Platonism

Dirk Baltzly

6 points • 2 hours per week • Second semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: At least six points of first year philosophy except with permission from the undergraduate co-ordinator

Synopsis In the first part of this century the British philosopher A. N. Whitehead remarked that 'all philosophy is but a series of footnotes to Plato.' This subject introduces students to some of the central themes in Plato's work. These will include: the relation between knowledge, moral virtue and happiness; the immortality of the soul and reincarnation; the existence and nature of Plato's "forms" – abstractions such as beauty itself, alleged to be the source of all beautiful things here. We will consider Plato's infamous views on love, and the need to rid the ideal city of artists. Finally we will explore the relation between Plato's philosophy and two important contemporary issues: the role of women in public life and the privileging of discourse over the written word.

PHL2150 Ethics

Graham Oppy & Ros Furney

6 points • 2 hours per week • First semester • Clayton, Caulfield and Gippsland • This subject is also offered in Distance Mode in every semester using on-line resources through MUSO • **Prerequisites:** at least 6 points of first year philosophy except with permission of the course co-ordinator.

Synopsis: This unit deals with some central debates in normative theory and their underpinning in the meta-ethical theories of Hume and Kant. A major focus of discussion is the opposition between consequentialist theories, such as utilitarianism, which judge rightness and wrongness solely in terms of consequences, and Kantian theory which judges rightness and wrongness according to whether the act is in accordance with rational will. How do these theories account for the agent-centred reasons which arise from relations of love and friendship and which seem to have the potential to conflict with impartial moral requirements? Is there a limit to our obligation to minimise suffering and maximise happiness?

PHL2170 Symbolic Logic

Lloyd Humberstone

6 point • 2 hours per week • First semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: First-year sequence in philosophy or at least 12 points of science subjects

Synopsis The subject is intended to provide an elementary survey of modern symbolic logic, concentrating on the propositional and predicate logic. Besides developing a basic competence in these systems, the subject provides an introduction to the meta-theory of formal systems and involves some discussion of philosophical problems associated with the application of such systems to informal discourse.

PHL3170 Symbolic Logic

Lloyd Humberstone

6 point • 2 hours per week • First semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: First-year sequence in philosophy or at least 12 points of science subjects

Synopsis As for PHL2170, with suitable differences in the level of assessment for a 3rd year subject.

PHL2210 Thinking About Science

John Bigelow

6 points • 2 hours per week • First semester • Clayton • This subject is also offered in Distance Mode in every semester using on-line resources through the Portals interface
Prerequisites: A first-year unit in Philosophy or 12-points of study in a science discipline.

Synopsis The subject will look at the growth of scientific theories from the standpoint of three humanities disciplines – history, philosophy and sociology – using a case study method. On completing the subject students will have an acquaintance with several important developments in the history of science, and have thought about issues in the philosophy of science and the sociology of knowledge. They will also have read Thomas Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, and so have encountered one of the most important books on science written in the 20th Century. Three case studies will be presented. (i) *The Copernican revolution in astronomy and physics*. This study will introduce issues about the nature and confirmation of scientific theories, and consider the interplay of scientific, philosophical and ideological issues in an historical setting. (ii) *Theories of Generation: Harvey to Mendel*. This study will consider the development of theories of reproduction and genetics in the period before Darwin and Mendel. Again issues about the nature of scientific theory and their relation to other cultural influences will be explored: in this case the possible influences of patriarchy on scientific theory. (iii) *The development of views about inheritance and human nature in recent biology*. This case study will look at the impact of evolutionary biology on theories of human nature, particularly concerning reproductive strategies; the study will raise issues about the social significance of scientific work. In addition students will undertake an individual case study under supervision.

PHL2330 Issues in Political Philosophy

Robert Sparrow

6 point • 2 hours per week • Second semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: A first-year sequence in Philosophy or Politics.

Synopsis The unit will discuss theories of liberty, equality and justice, and the role of the state in promoting these values. When are inequalities of income and wealth just? Are liberty and equality compatible? Can a secure foundation be provided for individual rights and liberties? Must liberty take priority over other values? These issues will be discussed mainly in the light of the work of contemporary political philosophers, but some reference will also be made to classical thinkers.

PHL3330 Issues in Political Philosophy

Robert Sparrow

6 points • 2 hours per week • Second semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: A first-year sequence in philosophy, plus one second year subject in philosophy.

Synopsis As for PHL2330, with more advanced assessment.

PHL2650 Philosophy of Mind

Jakob Hohwy & Ros Furney

6 points • 2 hours per week • Second semester • Clayton and Caulfield • **Prerequisites:** A first-year sequence in philosophy is highly desirable. Students with first-year level subjects to the value of 24 points in any Faculty may be accepted at the discretion of the subject coordinator.

Synopsis The central concern of this subject will be the nature of consciousness in humans. This will involve an examination of the major theories of the mind/body relationship, and also involve the question of whether some kind of non-biological entity, such as a computer or an android, could reason, have feelings, or be a moral agent.

PHL2670 Philosophy of Religion

Nick Trakakis

6 points • 2 hours per week • First semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: A first-year sequence in philosophy

Synopsis The subject will concentrate on assessment of the claim that the world was created by one or more deities. Traditional arguments for and against the existence of deities — such as ontological arguments, design arguments, moral arguments, arguments from miracles, arguments from revelation, scripture and experience, arguments from evil, Pascal's Wager, arguments from the incompatibility of divine attributes, arguments from the will to believe, and so on — will be considered.

PHL2810 Environmental Ethics

Karen Green

6 points • 2 hours per week • Second semester • Clayton & Caulfield • **Prerequisites:** A first-year sequence in philosophy or permission

Synopsis It has been argued that the ethical issues which are raised by the environmental crisis stretch the traditional philosophical concepts to breaking point. This has led to calls for a completely new ethic based on environmental values and a non-anthropocentric world view. This unit examines such proposals and the moral concepts they introduce: in particular animal rights, the value of nature and eco-centric notions of value. Various ethical dilemmas which arise in relation to treatment of animals and the environment, the value of wilderness, population growth and ethical responsibilities that come with globalisation will be discussed.

PHL3810 Environmental Ethics

Karen Green

6 points • 2 hours per week • Second semester • Clayton & Caulfield • **Prerequisites:** A first-year sequence in philosophy or permission

Synopsis As for PHL2810, but with more demanding assessment tasks.

PHL2850 Topics in Indian Philosophy

Monima Chadha

6 points • 2 hours per week interactive seminar • First semester • Clayton & Caulfield • This subject is also offered in Distance Mode in every semester using on-line resources through MUSO. **Prerequisites:** A first-year six point subject in Philosophy

Synopsis The unit considers a range of topics in metaphysics and ethics from an Indian perspective. The aim is to contrast the views of the conservative Hindu philosophers with those of the Indian heretics. Among the metaphysical topics special emphasis is placed on the theories of the self and their relation to interesting Hindu doctrines of Karma and Rebirth. The course also explores the relations between karma and other enigmatic traditional Indian concepts.

PHL3850 Topics in Indian Philosophy

Monima Chadha

6 points • 2 hours per week • First semester • Clayton & Caulfield • This subject is also offered in Distance Mode in every semester using on-line resources through MUSO. **Prerequisites:** A first-year sequence in Philosophy

Synopsis and assessment As for PHL 2850 with the additional requirement of being able to demonstrate in their writing an understanding of the course materials and analytical skills befitting third year philosophy students.

PHL3100 Philosophical issues in applied ethics

Justin Oakley

6 points • 2 hours per week • First semester • Clayton • **Prerequisites:** A first-year sequence in Philosophy or Bioethics, plus one of: CHB2100, PHL2150, PHL2810, PHL2330, PHL2510, or PHL2001.

Synopsis This unit examines key philosophical issues and concepts in contemporary applied ethics, focusing on more advanced philosophical discussions in this area. The unit considers issues and concepts in ethical debates about the beginning and the end of life, such as the status of human life, persons, and potential persons, along with acts and omissions, the doctrine of double effect, and personal identity questions raised by advance directives. The unit also investigates conceptual and ethical issues raised by debates about genetic interventions and access to assisted reproduction, such as the nature and moral significance of eugenics, disability, and wrongful life, and notions of parenthood.

PHL3410 **Theory of Knowledge**

Lloyd Humberstone

6 point • two hours per week • First semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: (a) some study of formal logic; **and** (b) Two 6-point second year philosophy subjects, including at least one of: PHL2110, PHL2120, PHL2130, PHL2150, PHL2650, or PHL2670.

Synopsis The subject will take the form of student-initiated discussions on problems connected with knowledge and belief. It will be mainly based on recent articles, which will be made available.

PHL3430 **The Philosophy of JP Sartre & Simone de Beauvoir**

Karen Green

6 points • 2 hours per week • First semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: A first-year philosophy sequence and at least one second-year philosophy subject

Synopsis The subject looks at the development of Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir's existentialism from *Being and Nothingness* and *She Came to Stay*, to *The Second Sex* and *Critique of Dialectical Reason*. Students will be introduced to the origins of Sartre and de Beauvoir's thinking in Husserl and Heidegger's phenomenology, the influence of Hegel on their thought and the concept of human freedom that they developed on this basis. Students will also be introduced to their later, more politically engaged philosophy, its relationship to Marxism, and its influence on late twentieth century notions of liberation.

PHL3590 **Mind and Meaning**

John Bigelow

6 points • 2 hours per week • First semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: Two second year philosophy subjects — PHL2170 and PHL2650 are strongly recommended.

Synopsis This subject provides an introduction to some major themes in recent philosophy of language and mind. Among the topics to be covered are: theories of reference and truth; theories of meaning; and theories of performative utterances. These topics have come to be of central concern in contemporary analytical philosophy and are often crucial in modern debates in fields as diverse as ethics, philosophy of mind, and metaphysics. One aim of this subject is to provide essential background for students intending to go on in philosophy.

PHL3690 **Metaphysics**

John Bigelow

6 points • 2 hours per week • Second semester • Clayton •
Prerequisites: A first-year sequence in philosophy and two 6-point second-year philosophy subjects including at least one of PHL2110, PHL2130 or PHL2170. A basic competence in logic is required.

Synopsis The subject will deal with philosophical problems concerning modality and some issues in the metaphysics of individuals, properties, relations, change, events and fate. A large part of the subject will be recent articles which will be made available, and there will be ample opportunity for seminar discussions.

PHL3890 **Science, Happiness and Death in Stoic and Epicurean Philosophy**

Dirk Baltzly

6 points • 2 hours per week • Second semester • Clayton • This subject is also offered in Distance Mode in every semester using on-line resources through MUSO.

Synopsis This unit introduces the student to the philosophical systems of these rival Hellenistic schools and examines their interaction, evolution and relevance to contemporary philosophical problems. Among the issues that concern the stoics and epicureans are questions about happiness and fulfillment; coping with the inevitability of death; fatalism and moral responsibility; and the role and relevance of god in a purely material universe. A proper understanding of the truths revealed by the systems was thought to make the fully educated stoic or epicurean 'a mortal god'-blessed and happy, utterly immune to the vagaries of misfortune and fearless in the face of death.