

Discipline of Philosophy
THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

Department of Philosophy
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Honours in Philosophy 2007

Course Information

WELCOME TO HONOURS IN PHILOSOPHY!

We hope that you will enjoy and get a great deal out of Philosophy Honours. The crucial determinant of this is your own level of commitment and participation. Seminars are not lectures. To ensure success remember the following:

- It is essential to keep up with seminar reading.
- Don't miss classes unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Speak to your supervisor and seminar coordinators about potential problems before they become severe.
- Cut down on part-time work and distracting social life – it's only one (very important) year of your life.

The Honours Coordinators for 2007 are:

Denise Gamble

University of Adelaide
Hughes 614, +61 8 8303 5302
denise.gamble@adelaide.edu.au

Craig Taylor

Flinders University
Humanities 223, +61 8 8201 3962
craig.taylor@flinders.edu.au

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The Honours programme in Philosophy is run jointly by the Discipline of Philosophy at The University of Adelaide and the Department of Philosophy at The Flinders University of South Australia. The programme, which is completed over one year on a full-time basis or two years part-time, comprises **3 semester-length seminars** and a **thesis**. For Honours prerequisites, please consult the University Calendar of the university at which you wish to enrol.

All students must do at least one third of their programme (i.e., at least two seminar courses or thesis supervision) in the department in which they are formally enrolled.

These arrangements do not apply to Joint Honours (i.e., Honours in Philosophy and some other discipline). The arrangements for Joint Honours will be determined on an individual basis.

PART-TIME ENROLMENT (UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE ONLY)

At the University of Adelaide it is possible to do Honours over two years (i.e., part-time), but the grounds for granting permission to do this are limited to:

- a) illness or disability
- b) compassionate grounds
- c) care-giver responsibilities
- d) greater than or equal to half-time employment
- e) enrolment for part of the Honours program in an overseas institution

In all circumstances, it should be clear that the student is unable to (rather than chooses not to) pursue the coursework on a full-time basis. Furthermore, part-time requires that the Honours course is completed over two *consecutive* years.

Any student wishing to enrol in Philosophy Honours part-time should consult with the Honours Coordinator at the earliest opportunity, so as to determine eligibility.

HONOURS MEETING

A meeting of all Honours students and seminar coordinators will be held in February 2007. This will be an opportunity to meet fellow students, and to receive information about seminars and honours administration. Notices will be circulated regarding time and place to all prospective students.

THESIS

Students must submit a thesis of length 15–18 thousand words. The thesis is worth 40% of the final Honours mark.

Prospective Honours students are asked to see their Honours Coordinator at the earliest opportunity to discuss a thesis topic and supervisor, as it is expected that students will be working on their theses during the summer vacation. At the very latest, Honours students should have arranged both a supervisor and a thesis topic by *early February* (or *late August* for students commencing in second semester).

If students wish to receive comments on their thesis, they should submit a thesis draft to their supervisor no later than *28 September 2007* (or *27 April 2007* for students commencing in second semester). After these dates, supervisors may have difficulty in providing timely feedback.

The content of the thesis must be significantly different from the content of any other work submitted as part of Honours.

THESIS PROPOSALS

Students must submit to their supervisor a thesis proposal of about 1000 words.

You are expected to have talked to your supervisor and be embarked on reading for your thesis by early February (late August for students commencing in second semester). The thesis proposal should demonstrate extensive reading in consultation with your supervisor and include a bibliography.

<p>Due dates for the thesis proposal are <i>9 March 2007</i> and <i>28 September 2007</i> for students commencing in first semester or second semester, respectively.</p>
--

SEMINARS

Assessment in each seminar is by one essay, which must be 5–6 thousand words in length. Each essay is worth 20% of the final Honours mark.

Six semester-length seminars will be offered by the two participating departments this year, three at Adelaide and three at Flinders (see seminar descriptions below).

The seminars are divided into two groups: *Epistemology & Metaphysics* (E&M), and *Moral & Social Philosophy* (M&S). **All Honours students must take at least one seminar from each of these two groups** (see the indications on pp.5-6).

Each of the seminars meets for two hours per week during teaching weeks for the duration of the semester (plus a preliminary meeting prior to the semester, the time and place of which will be advised in writing to enrolled students).

As part of the assessment requirements for each seminar, students must make at least one **in-class presentation** during the course of the semester, which can serve as an essay plan or draft.

DUE DATES & PENALTIES

The due dates for **seminar essays** are as follows:

<i>First Semester Essays</i>	5 pm Friday 15 June 2007
<i>Second Semester Essays</i>	5 pm Friday 2 November 2007

The **thesis** due dates, for both full-time and part-time students, are:

<i>Semester 1 Commencement</i>	5 pm Friday 26 October 2007
<i>Semester 2 Commencement</i>	5 pm Friday 1 June 2007

Each piece of Honours work must be submitted in **triplicate**, as follows:

- two **printed copies** to the Philosophy Office at the university where you are enrolled;
- one **electronic copy** emailed to your Honours Coordinator.

Overdue work will be penalised at a rate of 3% for each working day overdue. Work submitted after **5 pm Friday 16 November** without an extension, will not be marked.

EXTENSIONS

Extensions will only be granted on *significant* medical or compassionate grounds. Requests for extensions must be made in writing to your Honours Coordinator, and must be supported by appropriate documentation from a doctor or counsellor.

N.B. Only Honours Coordinators can grant extensions.

Extension application forms will be available from the respective Philosophy Departments. The request for an extension should always be made **before** the due date. Pressure of other work will not be accepted as grounds for an extension.

MARKING

Each individual piece of work (either seminar essay or thesis) will be marked by two examiners, where possible, one from Adelaide and one from Flinders.

Since each piece of work is marked by at least two examiners, requests for re-marking will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances.

The Department recognises the importance of feedback. All first Semester essays submitted on time are required to be returned to students by 3 August 2007

PROPOSED HONOURS SEMINARS 2007

Semester 1

The Problem of Evil (E&M)

The problem of evil is conventionally construed as a logical conundrum: how to reconcile the existence of an all-good and all-powerful God with the existence of physical and moral evil? Solutions to the problem typically appeal to reasons God may have to allow evil, either to respect human free-will, or to obtain 'greater goods', or both. This course will examine some assumptions behind the problem and the standard solutions to it. In doing so we will also examine such issues as the concept of God, the meaningfulness of religious language, and the nature of good and evil. The course will be structured round a close reading of D. Z. Phillips' book *The Problem of Evil and the Problem of God* (Fortress Press, 2005). Each student should purchase a paperback copy. Other readings will be supplied in photocopy form.

Coordinator: **Andrew Gleeson (Adelaide)**

Paradoxes of Rationality (E&M)

In this course, we will consider some of the paradoxes and puzzles associated with practical rationality. These include the Toxin Puzzle, the Newcombe Problem, and paradoxes of strategic interaction such as the Prisoner's Dilemma. However, we will also look at some discussions about the potentially self-defeating nature of rationality, including Parfit's discussion of 'rational irrationality' and Jon Elster's examples of 'states which are essentially by-products'.

Coordinator: **Jennie Louise (Adelaide)**

Ethics and Practical Reason (E&M/M&S)

This seminar examines recent attempts to account for morality in terms of a naturalized version of practical reason. The seminar will focus in particular on Sabina Lovibond's recent book *Ethical Formation* (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 2002) and her characteristic defence of 'the practical reason view of ethics' in which upbringing (involving a process of socialization) plays an essential role in the formation of character for the recognition of objective moral reasons.

Coordinator: **Craig Taylor (Flinders)**

Semester 2

Moral Minds (E&M/M&S)

In his book "Moral Minds" Mark Hauser argues that humans possess an innate capacity for moral judgment in the same way they possess an innate capacity to acquire language. To make his case he draws on recent work in neuroscience and psychology which has produced an emerging interdisciplinary field of empirical moral psychology. Students will be introduced to this field via a critical examination of "Moral Minds".

Coordinator: **Philip Gerrans (Adelaide)**

Folk Psychology (E&M)

Folk psychology is one of the key ideas in contemporary philosophy of mind and cognitive science. It is appealed to in the metaphysics of mind, the semantics of the mentalistic vocabulary, and in theories of mental state attribution. It has also played a role in our understanding of autism and schizophrenia, and in child development. This topic explores some of the philosophical and empirical issues surrounding these important topics.

Coordinator: **Ian Ravenscroft (Flinders)**

Political Philosophy (M&S)

Political Philosophy deals with issues of power: how should power, whether political or in other forms, be exercised and for what ends? What are the limits of power? In what ways is power exercised and for what ends? What are the limits of power? In what ways is power exercised in our society, and are they morally justifiable? It will focus on the political philosophy of 'economic rationalism' or Neo-Liberalism, and consider rights based and consequentialist justifications for limiting political power to promotion of a private property market economy.

Coordinator: **Ian Hunt (Flinders)**

**HONOURS PHILOSOPHY
APPLICATION FORM
for Honours in 2007**

Students intending to do Honours in Philosophy at either *The University of Adelaide* or *Flinders University* in 2007 are asked to complete and return the following form to the Honours Coordinator in the department in which they intend to enrol by **21 December 2007** (*or as soon as possible thereafter*).

<i>Name</i>	
<i>Student Number</i>	
<i>Address</i>	
<i>Phone Numbers</i>	Home:
	Work:
	Mobile:
<i>Email</i>	
<i>Department</i>	Adelaide <input type="checkbox"/> Flinders <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thesis Topic</i>	
<i>Thesis Supervisor</i>	
<i>Seminar Courses</i>	1.
	2.
	3.