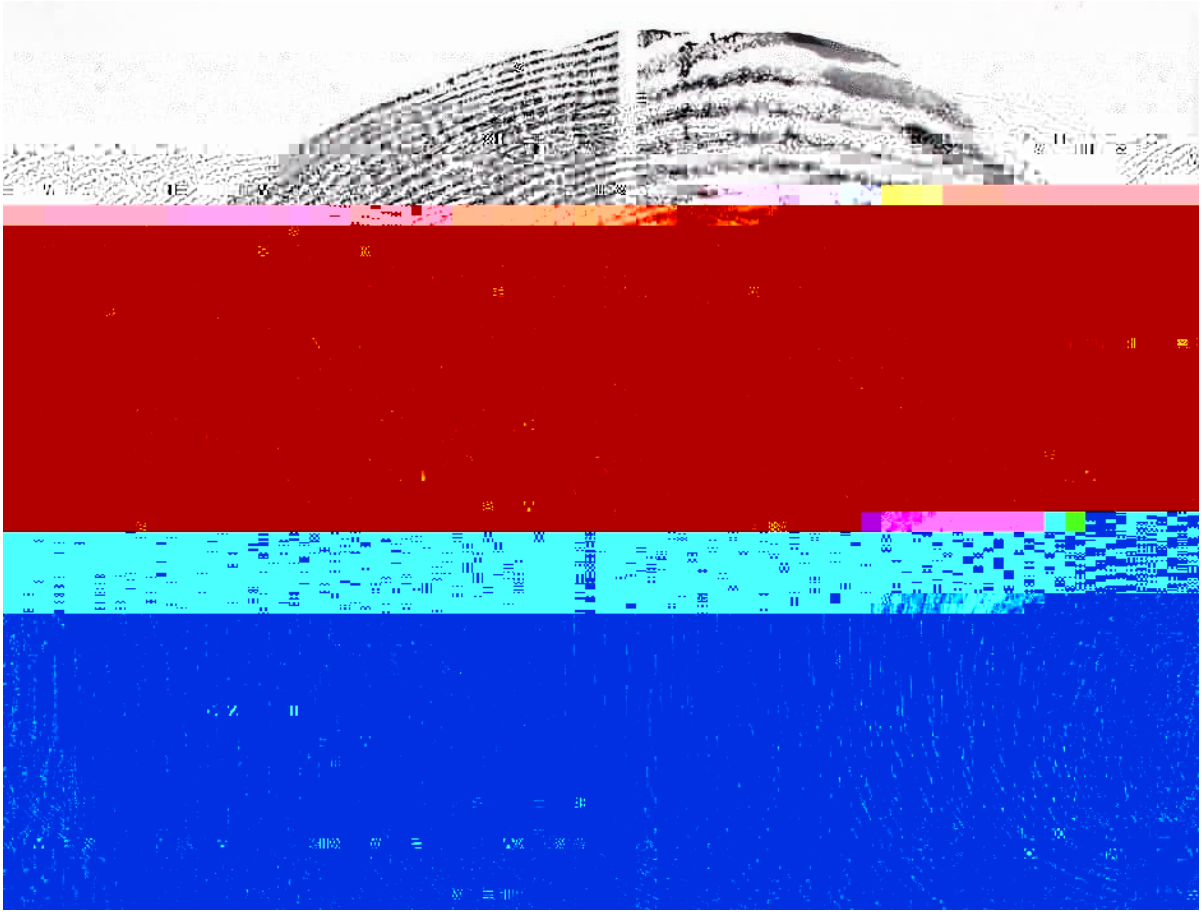

ARTS2876

Understanding the Self

Term One // 2021

School of Social Sciences // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Joseph Alizzi	j.alizzi@unsw.edu.au	Zoom, Skype and/or Teams by appointment	Online or Morven Brown	TBD

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

email: soss@unsw.edu.au

phone: 02 9385 1807

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Each of us has a self and an identity by virtue of being human. But do other living beings have a self? Do other living beings have society in the same way humans do? In this course, you will consider some traditional assumptions of selfhood (e.g., the capacity for reason, speech, and memory) from different sociological perspectives. You will consider some interdisciplinary challenges to these assumptions. You will examine arguments for and against extending selfhood to other living beings in order to add complexity and texture to sociological attempts to understand the self. This course will give you many opportunities to consider the relevance of theories of the self for further studies in Sociology and Anthropology and for other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain key issues relevant to sociological perspectives on the self
2. Distinguish between sociological perspectives on the self
3. Apply sociological perspectives on the self to lived experience
4. Use skills associated with scholarly inquiry including those related to critical analysis, argument and written expression.

Teaching Strategies

Rationale:

This course is based on the following principles:

1. To create an intellectually stimulating space for students that rewards active engagement with challenging concepts
2. To read primary texts without the use of secondary sources, commentaries or digested summaries.
3. To foster dialogue in and out of class between students, and with their teachers in order to create a community of learners
4. To read generously
5. To create a cooperative learning environment
6. To encourage student responsibility to the broader academic community

Teaching Strategies:

This course will consist of a two-hour lecture and one-hour tutorial and associated online learning activities.

Lectures: The lectures will combine the techniques of a traditional lecture with the interaction and dialogue typically associated with tutorials. Students are encouraged to participate actively in lectures by questioning and commenting on the course material. Lectures will rely on textual commentary, film and visual imagery to explicate the concepts found in the readings.

Tutorials: Tutorials will be used to organise small groups to establish a collaborative working environment where students can learn from one another.

Reading Questions: For each weekly reading, you will find reading comprehension questions posted to the University LMS. These will help to orient you with respect to the arguments presented in the assigned readings.

Assessment

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Additional details:

TBD

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

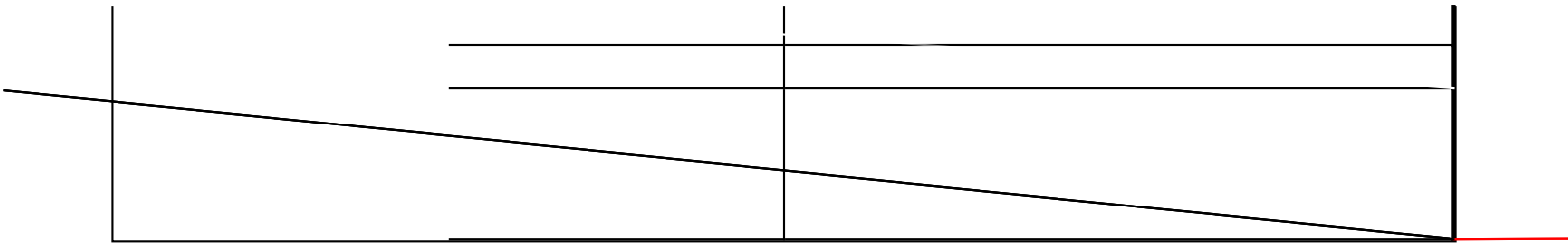
Course Schedule

Course Schedule

View class ti ‰ 7 ‴

		nature and its social conditions', *Bspifcgkg_l Qrsbgcq*, vol.11, pp.35-45
	Tutorial	As scheduled
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Lecture	The Unconscious and the Self - Freud Thursday March 11th Online – See Moodle for details
	Reading	Freud, S. (1989) 'Civilization and its discontents', in Gay, P. (ed.), *Rfc Dpcsb Pc_bcp*, W.W.Norton, NY, pp.722-772
	Tutorial	As scheduled
	Online Activity	See Moodle for details
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Lecture	Labour and the Self - Marx Thursday March 18th Online – See Moodle for details
	Reading	Marx, K (2000) 'Economic and philosophical manuscripts' in McLellan, D. (ed.), *I_pj K_pv8 Qcjcarcb Upgrgleq*, 2nd edn., Oxford University Press, Oxford, Excerpts pp.83-95
	Tutorial	As scheduled
	Online Activity	See Moodle for details
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Online Activity	Flexibility Week! There are no scheduled lectures or tutorials this week. In lieu of lecture/tutorial, please complete this online activity (see Moodle for details).
	Reading	(For Online Activity) Coetzee, J.M. (1999) 'The philosophers and the animals' in *Rfc R_llcp Jcarspcqml Fsk_l T_jscq*, Delivered at Princeton University, October 15, 1997, pp.113-143 Kafka, F. (1971) 'A report to an academy', in *Dp_lx l_di_8 Rfc Amknjcrc Qrmpgcq*, Schocken Books, New York, pp.250-259
	Tutorial	No tutorial this week
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Lecture	The Animal and the Self - Descartes, Derrida Thursday 1st April

	Reading	Descartes, R. (1988) 'Discourse on the method – part V', in Descartes: Selected Philosophical Writings, (Cottingham, J. & Stoothoff, R. trans.), *A_k`pgbec Slgtcpqgrw Npcqq*, Cambridge pp.40-46 Derrida, J. (2004) 'Violence against animals' in *Dmp Uf_r Rmkmppmu8? Bg_jmesc*, Stanford university Press, Stanford pp.62-76
	Tutorial	No tutorial due to public holiday, online activity.
	Online Activity	Activity in lieu of tutorial - See Moodle for details
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Lecture	Morality and the Self - De Waal Thursday 8th April Online – See Moodle for details
	Reading	De Waal, F. (2003) 'Morality and the social instincts: Continuity with the other primates', *Rfc R_llcp Jcarspcq ml Fsk_l T_jscq** delivered at Princeton University, November 19-20, 2003, pp.3-39
	Tutorial	As scheduled
	Online Activity	See Moodle for details
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Lecture	Time and the Self - Bergson Thursday 15th April Online – See Moodle for details
	Reading	Bergson, H. ([1907]1983), *Apc_rgtc Ctmjsrgml*, Macmillan Press, London, excerpts pp.10-16, and 17-23
	Tutorial	As scheduled
	Assessment	Workbook: your entries for weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 (6 in total) are due on Sunday April 18, before 11.59pm.
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Lecture	Death and the Self - Becker Thursday 22nd April Online - See Moodle for details
	Reading	Becker, E. (1973) *Rfc Bcl_jmd Bc_rf*, selections



due on Friday April 30 before11.59pm

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Resources

Prescribed Resources

Print copies of the weekly assigned readings have been compiled into an 'ARTS2876 Study Kit' which is available for purchase at the UNSW Bookshop. Electronic copies of the readings are also available on the ARTS2876 Moodle page: http://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will be gathered through myExperience surveys, and you will be given opportunities throughout the semester to give informal feedback. *?PRQ0654 S l bc pqr_ l b g l e r f c Qcj d* was last taught in 2019. That cohort of students gave positive feedback on the course.

Based on the feedback, the following changes to the course have been made:

1. Content - the content has been modified in order to privilege depth rather than breadth given the pressures of the trimester system;

2. Announcements - video segments may be uploaded to Moodle in order to address issues related to assessment and course business. This will give us more time in lectures to discuss course content.

The feedback was very much appreciated, and I look forward to implementing these suggestions in 2020. Best wishes for the coming term!

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
-

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
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