

# COURSE DETAIL

## PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS

**Country**

Australia

**Host Institution**

University of Melbourne

**Program(s)**

University of Melbourne

**UCEAP Course Level**

Lower Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Philosophy

**UCEAP Course Number**

53

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

PHIL: BIG QUESTIONS

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

## **Course Description**

This course introduces philosophy through an examination of big questions in three areas of philosophy: (1) Ethics. Does the moral rightness of an action depend solely on its consequences? Or are there some actions, like torture, which are morally wrong no matter how desirable the consequences? What is the moral status of animals? What is the responsibility of members of developed countries for global poverty? Is it morally permissible to spend money on non-essentials while children die of preventable poverty-related causes? (2) Knowledge and skepticism. What is knowledge and do we actually know what we take ourselves to know? Do we know that there is an external world or might we be subject to a massive illusion created by an evil demon? How is it possible for scientific knowledge of laws of nature to be based on limited observation of empirical facts? (3) Personal identity. What makes you the same person as you were ten years ago? Can you survive the loss of parts of your body? Can you survive with half of your brain? Is it important that I empathize with my past and future selves? What is death? Is death bad? How do Buddhist philosophers argue for the claim that there is no self?

## **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

## **Host Institution Course Number**

PHIL10002

## **Host Institution Course Title**

PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS

## **Host Institution Course Details**

<https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2016/PHIL10002>

## **Host Institution Campus**

Melbourne

## **Host Institution Faculty**

## **Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**

Philosophy

**Course Last Reviewed**

2023-2024

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