

COURSE DETAIL

PHILOSOPHY OF RISK

Country

United Kingdom - Scotland

Host Institution

University of Edinburgh

Program(s)

University of Edinburgh

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Philosophy

UCEAP Course Number

143

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

PHILOSOPHY OF RISK

UCEAP Transcript Title

PHILOSOPHY OF RISK

UCEAP Quarter Units

8.00

UCEAP Semester Units

5.30

Course Description

The notion of risk is central to areas such as economics, finance, medicine, and law as well as branches of philosophy such as ethics and epistemology. It is also a prominent part of ordinary everyday decision making. Risk is standardly understood in a probabilistic way, on which the risk of a given outcome is connected with the probability that the outcome will occur. In some recent philosophical literature, however, the dominance of this probabilistic approach has been challenged, and certain non-probabilistic conceptions of risk have been proposed. This literature serves the starting point for this course, but students go on to consider a much broader range of literature, drawing upon sources in psychology, risk management and legal theory. Specific topics to be covered vary from year to year but may include the ethics of risk imposition, risk-taking in extreme sport, the legal distinction between attacks and endangerments, and whether there is such a thing as a "de minimis risk" - a risk that is so small that it can be rationally ignored.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

PHIL10219

Host Institution Course Title

PHILOSOPHY OF RISK

Host Institution Course Details

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/25-26/dpt/cxphil10219.htm>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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