



2019 Series 3 Course D

- Title** **Philosophy at Otago: the Big Ideas**
- Dates** **Thursdays 29 August – 3 October 2019**
- Time** **10 am – 12 noon**
- Venue** **Leith Bowling Club, 2 Duke Street, North Dunedin**
- Convenor** **Doug Holborow**
Email: bdholborow@gmail.com
Phone: 477 4573 Mobile: 021 140 9788
- Developer** **Barrie Peake & Alan Musgrave**
- Course fee** \$45

The Department of Philosophy at the University of Otago has a proud history of teaching and research. As part of the University's 150th anniversary celebrations, current and retired staff will review this history and discuss a range of topics to which Otago philosophers (both past and present) have made major contributions.

All applications must be received by **Friday 2 August, 2019**. You will receive a response to your application by **Monday 12 August, 2019**.

Please contact the Programme Secretary courses@u3adunedin.org.nz, phone 467 2594 with any queries.

Philosophy at Otago: the Big Ideas

- 29 August** **150 years of Philosophy at Otago: an overview**
-Associate Professor Charles Pigden
An overview of the history of philosophy at Otago, discussing key staff, star graduates and their big ideas
- 5 September** **Duncan MacGregor: Professor Jekyll or Mr Hyde?**
-Professor Alex Miller
An introduction to the life and work of this controversial figure who was the first Professor of Philosophy at Otago
- The non-cognitivist view of moral judgement**
-Professor Alex Miller
An introduction to the idea that moral judgements express sentiment, feelings or desire-like attitudes rather than beliefs
- 12 September** **Hume and Prior on no-ought-from-is**
-Associate Professor Charles Pigden
David Hume (1711–1776) claimed that you can't derive an *ought* from an *is*, but Otago's Arthur Prior (1914–1969) proved you can
- 19 September** **The naturalistic fallacy: Moore versus Durrant**
-Associate Professor Charles Pigden
In 1903, the Cambridge philosopher G. E. Moore argued that it was a fallacy to identify the property of *goodness* with anything else; but in 1970 Otago's Bob Durrant found a flaw in the proof
- Error theory: J. L. Mackie**
-Associate Professor Charles Pigden
J. L. Mackie (Professor from 1955–1959) argued that although moral judgments are in the true/false game, they are systematically false which means that morality is at best a useful fiction
- 26 September** **Scientific and critical realism**
-Professor Alan Musgrave
There is a world which is largely independent of our wishes or beliefs, and science at its best tells us what it is like, even though we can never be *absolutely* certain that what science says is true
- 3 October** **The F-twist untwisted**
-Professor Alan Musgrave
Milton Friedman famously argued that it does not matter if an economic theory is unrealistic (as his were alleged to be) so long as it delivers successful predictions, a thesis that came to be known as 'the F-twist'