



SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

MMCA 401 METHODOLOGY

Trimester 1 2006

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Staff: Paul Tompkinson, (Coordinator/Lecturer/Tutor), RH 403, Ext 5737,
Paul.Tompkinson@vuw.ac.nz. Office Hours are 9-10 on Tuesday and Thursday

Class Times and Room Numbers

Monday 3-30-5-20 in GBG07

An examination will be held between 6 July and 23 June 2006

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should

1. Have the ability to analyse the structure and assess the cogency of arguments
2. Have an understanding of some of the central themes in the philosophy of social science.
3. Have demonstrated this understanding and its application with well-argued discussion and formal analysis, particularly in writing but also in tutorial discussion.
4. Have an adequate background for undertaking those courses which consider methodological issues relevant to particular disciplines.

Course Content

The course will present a method for analysing arguments expressed in natural languages and this method will be used when considering some central issues in the Philosophy of Social Science.

Readings

1. Govier, T., 1992, *A Practical Study of Argument*, Third Edition, Belmont, Wadsworth, [BC177 G721P 3ed] at **least** CHs. 1-3 and Ch. 11 Multiple copies of the book are available in the Study Hall. Notice it is important that you attempt some of the exercises in this book.
2. Argument Analysis Handout
3. Readings from the **MMCA 401 Handbook**. [Copies of the Handbook are available from the Student Bookshop. Apart from Govier and the Argument Analysis Handout all references cited in the next section can be found in the Handbook.].
4. For some of the topics notes prepared by the lecturers will be placed on Blackboard.

The required reading for all lectures is given in the following section. References placed within square brackets are suggested supplementary readings.

The lectures will be given assuming that the students have already read the relevant material. For most of the tutorials you should, before attending,

1. Prepare a short summary of the material that is to be discussed.
2. Identify what you take to be the central arguments/explanations and provide a standardisation of them.
3. Evaluate these arguments/explanations using the methods suggested in the lectures

1. Week beginning 27 Feb

Lecture: Argument analysis
Reading: Argument Analysis Handout, Baggini [1], Baggini [2], Govier CHs 1-3

2. Week beginning 6 Mar

Lecture: Argument analysis
Reading: Argument Analysis Handout, Baggini [1], Baggini [2], Govier CHs 1-3
Tutorial: Standardise and evaluate passages 4, 8, 19 from Argument Analysis Handout.

3. Week beginning 13 Mar

Lecture: Case Study of Argument Analysis: Nagel, "Free Will."
Reading: Nagel
Tutorial: Read the introductory section and the section headed "11.1 The Naturalistic Tradition" from Salmon [1995] and then present all of the arguments contained in section 11.1 in standard form.

4. Week beginning 20 Mar

Lecture: Argument Analysis/Testing Hypotheses
Reading: Salmon (1995) Sections I to V and VII
Tutorial: Discussion of Nagel

5. Week beginning 27 Mar

Lecture: Explanation
Reading: "Explanation" in Course documents, Baker and Bettner, Hollis p. 68-70., Searle p.168-9.
Tutorial: Discussion of Salmon (1995)

6 Week beginning 3 Apr

Lecture: **Social Study and Objectivity**
Reading: Pratt

Tutorial Standardise Baker and Bettner's explanation for the paucity of interpretative/critical studies in mainstream accounting journals? Is their explanation convincing? Standardise Baker and Bettner's argument which concludes that mainstream accounting journals should publish more interpretative/critical studies. Is their argument cogent?

7 Week beginning 24 Apr

Lecture: Philosophy of Social Science 1
Reading: Salmon (1992) 11.1 to 11.4, [Braybrooke]
Tutorial Discussion of Pratt

8 Week beginning 1 May

Lecture: Philosophy of Social Science 2
Reading: Salmon [1992] 11.5 to end. [Searle]
Tutorial Discussion of Salmon 11.1 to 11.4.

9. Week beginning 8 May

Lecture: Philosophy of Social Science 3
Reading: Hollis, opening section and sections 1 and 2
Tutorial Discussion of Salmon 11.5 to end, [Searle]

10. Week beginning 15 May

Lecture: Philosophy of Social Science 4
Reading: Hollis, sections 3 and 4, [Boghossian, Schick and Vaughan]
Tutorial Discussion of Hollis, opening section and sections 1 and 2

11. Week beginning 22 May

Lecture: Homo Economicus-Homo Sociologicus [1]
Reading: Elster, Becker, Hollis Section 3.1
Tutorial Hollis, sections 3 and 4, [Boghossian, Schick and Vaughan]

12. Week beginning 29 May

Lecture: Review of course material
Tutorial Revision material

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

To appreciate the material covered in this course it is useful to have some knowledge of the development of the physical sciences. For this purpose you should find Brown, R. H., 1986, *The Wisdom of Science*, Cambridge University Press, a useful reference.

To assist you in your reading you will find the following references helpful.

N. Bunnin and E. P. Tsui-James (Ed's), Glossary, *The Blackwell Companion to Philosophy*, Oxford, Blackwell.
A Dictionary of Philosophy, 1979, Pan Books, London.
McLeish, K. (Ed.), 1993, *Key Ideas in Human Thought*, Bloomsbury, London
Magee, B., (Ed), 1987, *The Great Philosophers: An Introduction to Western Philosophy*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, [B72 M191 G]

A selection of Philosophy of social science texts is.

Hargreaves Heap, S., Hollis, M., Lyons, B., Sugden, R., and A. Weale, 1992, *The Theory of Choice: A Critical Guide*, Oxford, Blackwell, [HB 846.8 T396]
Hollis, M., 1994, *The Philosophy of Social Science*, Cambridge University Press.
Little, D., 1991, *Varieties of Social Explanation*, Boulder, Westview Press, [H61 L778 V]
Rosenberg, A., 1995, *Philosophy of Social Science*, Boulder, second edition, Westview Press, [H91 R813 P]
Searle, J., 1984, "Prospects for the Social Sciences.", from *Minds Brains and Science*, London, Penguin..

Collections of relevant papers can be found in

Boyd R., P. Gasper and J. D. Trout, 1993, *The Philosophy of Science*, Cambridge Mass, MIT Press, [Q175.3 P568] {BGT}
Martin, M., and L. C. McIntyre, 1994, *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, Cambridge Mass., MIT Press, [H61 R287] {MM}

Materials and Equipment

Students are required to purchase the MMCA 401 Course Handbook. This is available from the Student Notes Shop. Computers and electronic calculators are not permitted in the examination.

Assessment Requirements

Assignment 1	15%
Assignment 2	35%
Two hour Registry examination	50%

Assignment 1: Due date. 27 Mar, 3-30 a.m. Hand in at the lecture

Assignment 2: Due date 22 May, 3-30 a.m. Hand in at the lecture.

The details of these two assignments will be given in a separate document. This document will be placed on Blackboard

Penalties

Late work will be accepted without penalty with good reason (e.g. a medical certificate) and prior permission. In other cases 5 marks will be deducted from the student's mark (out of 100) for each day, or part day, the assignment is late.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Completion of Assignments 1 and 2

Communication of Additional Information

Notices detailing additional information or changes in information will be posted on Blackboard

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student Administration Office

The Student Administration Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce & Administration and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA005) and offices 125a to 131 (Level 1). The office is available for the following:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- FCA Student Administration forms (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

Check with the Student Administration Office for opening times (04) 463 5376.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures.

Student Conduct and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct.

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the Associate Dean (Students) of your Faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy which is published on the VUW website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Students with Disabilities

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, then please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available. Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, or phoning 463-6070, email: disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant or the School Prospectus.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, please contact the relevant Course Co-ordinator, or Associate Dean who will either help you directly or put you in contact with someone who can.

The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/ or email student-services@vuw.ac.nz.

VUWSA employs two Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building, phone 463 6983 or 463 6984, email education@vuwsa.org.nz.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Maori and Pacific Mentoring programme (Faculties of Humanities and Social sciences and Commerce and Administration).

- **What:** Academic Mentoring for Maori and Pacific students studying at all levels in the above faculties. Weekly sessions for an hour with a mentor to go over assignments and any questions from tutorials or lectures. Registered students can use the faculty's study rooms and computer suite at any time at Kelburn and Pipitea.
- Mature student and Post grad network

If you would like to register as a mentor or mentee please contact the coordinator.

Where:

Melissa Dunlop
Programme Coordinator
Room 109 D
14 Kelburn Parade: back courtyard
Ph: (04) 463 6015
Email: Maori-Pacific-Mentoring@vuw.ac.nz

Please Note: A mentoring room will also be running at Pipitea Campus starting January. Please contact the Programme Coordinator for details.