



School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations

**Philosophy Programme**

**First Trimester, 2009**  
2 March to 5 June 2009

**PHIL/POLS/INTP 264 (CRN 10416/10417/10418)**

**ETHICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Course Outline**

**Philosophy Programme:** The Programme's office is located in Murphy Bldg. 518 (abbreviated as MY), and the direct phone number is (04) 463-5368.

**The Cast:** The lecturer and course coordinator is Ramon Das and tutorials are run by Steve Riley. The names, room and telephone extension numbers, and office hours of both are listed below:

Ramon Das	MY 608	ext. 5038	M 9-11
Steve Riley	MY 705	ext. 8938	TBA

**Lectures:**

Lectures are held on M, W, Th in Maclaurin (MC) LT 101 from 1:10 to 2:00.

**Tutorials:**

There are four tutorials for the course; each student should sign up for one. Sign-up for tutorials is conducted online. Go to <https://signups.vuw.ac.nz> and follow the instructions. Tutorials will begin in Week 2. Attendance at tutorials is not compulsory, but is strongly recommended

**Text:**

The required text is *The Global Justice Reader*, edited by Thom Brooks (Blackwell, 2008). It is available for purchase in the Student Notes bookshop. Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

**Course Content:**

This course provides an overview of some central problems at the intersection of ethics and international affairs, including war and just-war theory, humanitarian aid and intervention, and nationalism and state-hood. Although we shall discuss the "realist" approach to the subject that largely avoids ethical considerations, the presupposition of the course is that it is

wholly appropriate, indeed indispensable, to apply such considerations in analysing international affairs.

**Learning Objectives:** Students will be expected to attend lectures regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading. Students passing the paper should have an adequate understanding of the problems discussed in class and be able to set out and evaluate arguments relevant to these problems.

**Graduate attributes:** As with all PHIL courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific attributes in the areas of logical and critical thinking, conceptual analysis and rational and ethical decision-making. Please consult the Programme Prospectus 2009, p. 7, for more details or on our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/phil/degrees/index.aspx>

**Course Schedule** (subject to change):

Week 1	Ethical theory and realism
Week 2	Sovereignty
Week 3	Self-determination and secession
Week 4	Nationalism and patriotism
Weeks 5 & 6	Global poverty and international distributive justice
Weeks 7 & 8	Just war & humanitarian intervention
Week 9	Terrorism
Week 10	Women and Global justice
Week 11	Environmental justice
Week 12	Globalization and financial crisis

**Mandatory Course Requirements:**

None.

**Assessment:**

- (1) One typed essay of approximately 2500 words, worth 30% of the final grade.
- (2) A midterm test, worth 20% of the final grade.
- (3) A take-home final test, worth 50% of the final grade. The final test is comprised of 2 essay questions, each of which should be approximately 1250 words. Students may not answer test questions on topics that they have already covered in their earlier essay.

**Essay Due Date and Test Date:**

The **midterm test** will be given on **Thursday 9 April**. It will take the entire class period; further details will be forthcoming.

The **essay** is due **Wednesday 13 May at 5:00 pm**. Essays are to be submitted as a Word document on Blackboard. The essay topics will be posted on Blackboard during the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the course.

The **take-home final test** will be posted on Blackboard on **Thursday 4 June** immediately after class. Completed exams are to be submitted as a Word document on Blackboard by **Sunday 7 June at 11:59 pm**.

**Penalties:**

**Late essays, without extension, will be penalised two marks per day** (roughly equivalent to one full letter grade per week). **No essays will be accepted after 4 June**. An extension can be granted only with the (prior) approval of the course co-ordinator, and only in **exceptional** circumstances. Procrastination is not a legitimate ground for an extension. If you have other assignments due around the same time, plan ahead.

**You must submit your essays electronically via Blackboard** (please consult *Blackboard* for instructions). **This electronic version will be sent to turnitin.com, an anti-plagiarism website, and is the version that will be graded.**

**Relation Between Assessment and Course Aims/Objectives:**

The topics for the essays, test, and take home final test are chosen to ensure that the subject matter in the course has been adequately covered in the depth appropriate for the 200, while also giving students an opportunity to focus on those arguments and issues that they find most interesting. Students should demonstrate that they understand and can evaluate arguments (issues) covered in both sections of the course.

**Workload:**

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to the course. This includes three hours of lectures and one hour for tutorial.

**Statement on the use of Turnitin:**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

**Academic integrity and plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as 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, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.