

**SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**

**PHILOSOPHY 104
ARGUMENT AND ANALYSIS
2009 TRIMESTER 1
2 March to 1 July 2009**

Philosophy Programme: The Philosophy Programme is located on the fifth, sixth, and seventh floors of the Murphy Building. The School Office (MY518) has a direct line, (04) 463 5368. The admin assistant is Sophia Zhao.

The Cast: The names, room and telephone extension numbers, and office hours of the lecturers are listed below:

Stuart Brock	MY 701	x6970	by appt.
Sondra Bacharach*	MY 711	x5038	Wed 2-4 and by apt.
Dan Turton	MY 702	463-5233-8651	Wed 2-3
Matt Gers	MY 719	x8642	Thurs 1-2
Ed Mares	MY 618	x5234	TBA (see BB).

* Course Co-ordinator

The course tutors are: TBA. Further details will be posted on Blackboard.

Lecture times: Lectures are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:10-2pm

Lecture venue: Easterfield 006 (EA LT 006)

Tutorial Times and Venues: as shown in S-cubed. Tutorials commence in the **second** week of the course. **Attendance at tutorials is not compulsory, but is strongly recommended**

PHIL104 will use S-Cubed for tutorial registration.

Use your internet browser to go to: **<https://signups.vuw.ac.nz>**.

Use your normal **student login** and **password** to sign into S-Cubed.

Click on **“PHIL104”** You will see info about your course and about the different tutorial sessions. Sign up to your preferred session by clicking on the **“sign up”** button.

Please note: This sign-up programme is only available from Monday 2 March to Friday 6 March 2009. If you do not sign up during this time, you may be extremely limited in your choice of tutorial time. If you have problems please see the Philosophy Programme Administrator, Murphy Building, 5th Floor, MY518.

Course Outline: The course is divided into five sections.

Section One (Stuart Brock): 9 lectures (2 March-20 March)

In this part of the course we will be examining the traditional arguments for and against the existence of God.

Section Two. (Dan Turton): 7 lectures (23 March – 8 April)

In this section we address some questions in the foundations of morality, including moral relativism. We'll also ask why one should be moral.

Section Three (Sondra Bacharach): 6 lectures (27 April – 8 May)

This section addresses some traditional and contemporary accounts of knowledge and scepticism.

Section Four (Matt Gers): 6 lectures (5 May – 16 May)

This section covers some basic issues in the philosophy of science. We'll examine the distinction between science and pseudo-science, some criticisms of the authority of science, and the sociology of scientific knowledge.

Section Five (Ed Mares): 6 lectures (19 May – 30 May)

This section examines the nature of just war.

Mandatory Course Requirements:

None.

Relation Between Assessment and Course Aims/Objectives: The topics for the in-class tests, essay, and final examination are chosen to ensure that the subject matter in the course has been adequately covered in the depth appropriate for the 100-level, 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 at least four sections of the course.

Communication of additional information

A copy of this course information outline, the tutorial programme, overheads used in lectures, and any additional course information will be posted on *Blackboard*.

Learning objectives

Aims and Objectives: The main aim is to provide an introduction to philosophy, with special attention given to the nature and analysis of argumentation. The student who passes this course will have acquired an adequate understanding of, and ability to evaluate, some arguments (issues) discussed in several areas of philosophy. The course should provide a solid foundation for further work in the discipline, and also help students think more carefully and critically about a wider range of issues.

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>

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 12 hours per week to PHIL 104. This includes 3 hours of lectures per week and one tutorial

Text: The *Philosophy 104 Coursebook 2009* is available for purchase from the University's Class Notes Shop on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays) 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturdays. Ph: 463 5515

Assessment requirements

PHIL 104 is assessed on the basis of one in-class test, one essay, and the final examination.

The final grade is determined as follows:

In-class test: 15% each
Essay: 35%
Final exam 50%

The **in-class test** will be held during the lecture time on **Friday 3 April**. The test will consist of one essay question:

In-Class Test Question:

Dostoevsky once gave the following impassioned account of the torture of a five year old by her own parents: “They beat her, thrashed her, kicked her for no reason till her body was one bruise. Then, they went to greater refinements of cruelty -- shut her up all night in the cold and frost in a privy, and because she didn't ask to be taken up at night (as though a child of five sleeping its angelic, sound sleep could be trained to wake and ask), they smeared her face and filled her mouth with excrement, and it was her mother, her mother did this. And that mother could sleep, hearing the poor child's groans! Can you understand why a little creature, who can't even understand what's done to her, should beat her little aching heart with her tiny fist in the dark and the cold, and weep her meek unresentful tears to dear, kind God to protect her? Do you understand that, friend and brother, you pious and humble novice? Do you understand why this infamy must be and is permitted? Without it, I am told, man could not

have existed on earth, for he could not have known good and evil. Why should he know that diabolical good and evil when it costs so much? Why, the whole world of knowledge is not worth that child's prayer to dear, kind God!"

In this passage, Dostoevsky evaluates a familiar objection to a premise in the argument from evil. Your job in this test is to do the following four things: (1) outline, in standard form, the argument from evil; (2) tell me which premise in the argument the hypothetical objector is challenging and explain the objection; (3) explain and elaborate Dostoevsky's response to the objection (i.e., explain why Dostoevsky thinks the objection is misguided); (4) consider and evaluate an alternative and different objection to the same premise in the argument from evil.

Reading: See Section I of the *PHIL 104 Coursebook*.

Essay Question:

The **essay**, of approximately 2,000 words, is due by **4:00 pm on Thursday 7 May**. The essay question is as follows:

Explain and evaluate the doctrine of moral relativism. Make sure that your answer includes critical discussions of Harman's argument in favour of moral relativism and *at least one* argument against it (from Rachels and/or Shafer-Landau)

You must submit your essay 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.** (Additional information regarding the use of Turnitin will be given on the essay topic handout.)

However, as a back-up **you must also submit a hard copy of your essay to the Philosophy Programme office (MY 518).**

The **final examination** is a closed-book, three-hour examination, to be held during the exam period (Friday 12 June to Wed 1 July 2009). The examination paper will be divided into four sections, one for theory of knowledge; one for science vs pseudo-science; one for just war theory, and one that will be for philosophy of religion and moral philosophy. Students must answer four questions, no two of which may be from the same section. All questions will have equal marks value. A short handout confirming arrangements for the final exam will be posted on *Blackboard* in May.

Return of assignments

In-class tests will be held in the main office of the Philosophy Programme (MY 518) and will be made available for pick-up *roughly* 2 weeks after the test. They can be picked up between 12-2pm. Essays will be made available on *Blackboard* *roughly* 2 weeks after submission.

Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays – a deduction of 10 marks per week. Work that is more than 14 days late will not be marked. However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). 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.

Mandatory course requirements

None

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.

