

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

**PHILOSOPHY**

**PHIL 211 Introduction to Logic**

**2009 TRIMESTER 1**

2 March to 1 July 2009

**Course Coordinator:** Dr Cei Maslen  
**Room:** Murphy Building, MY 707  
**Phone:** 463 6524  
**Email:** Cei.Maslen@vuw.ac.nz  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2.10-3pm during teaching weeks,  
and by appointment.

**Lecture Times:** 1.10-2pm (March 2<sup>nd</sup>-June 4<sup>th</sup>)  
**Lecture Venue:** Hunter Lecture Theatre 220

**Course Delivery**

The course is taught by Dr Cei Maslen. There will be two lectures per week and no tutorials. The time and date of the final examination will be set by the university later in the trimester. It will be during the mid-year examination period (from Friday 12 June to Wednesday 1 July 2009.)

**Communication of additional information**

Any additional information or notices about this course will be posted on the course BlackBoard website (<http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/>).

**Course content**

What makes some arguments valid and others invalid? How can you tell the difference? In this course, we will answer these questions by learning how to symbolize arguments and how to use techniques such as truth tables, truth trees and natural deduction to determine whether these arguments are valid. Those who acquire the knowledge and skills taught in this course will be able to distinguish between good and bad reasoning in the most rigorous way possible.

**Learning objectives**

The main aim is to provide students with the basics of modern formal logic. Students who pass the course will understand the basics of propositional and predicate calculus, how to translate sentences of English into these formal languages, and how to assess arguments for validity using truth trees.

### **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 15 hours per week to PHIL 211. This includes 3 hours of lectures per week.

### **Readings**

#### **Essential texts:**

Roderic A. Girle, *Introduction to Logic*, Auckland, Prentice Hall, 2002 (either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is fine).

Textbooks can be purchased from Vicbooks located on the top floor of the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. Customers can order textbooks online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop the day after placing an order online. 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, Phone: 463 5515.

### **Assessment requirements**

There will be one in-class test (30% of total course marks), four homework assignments (5% of total course marks each), and a two-hour final exam (50% of total course marks).

The date of the in-class test is Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>. The due dates of each homework assignment will be announced later, and each will be handed out in class at least one week before the due-date. The final examination will be a two-hour, closed book, registry-administered examination. The date of the examination is set later in the trimester by the Registrar but will fall within the date range of **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009**.

The assessment tasks are designed to help students to get early feedback, practice the methods, and to assess the breadth and depth of their grasp of the material.

### **Penalties**

Students will be penalised for late submission of homework assignments – a deduction of 5% for each day late. 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). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

### **Mandatory course requirement**

None.

## **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.