



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

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
PHIL/POLS 269: Philosophical Issues in Sex and Sexuality
2009 TRIMESTER 1
2 March to 5 June 2009

Course Delivery

The course is taught in one three hour session each week for the duration of the first trimester. The class takes place between 9.00 and 11.50 a.m. on Wednesday in KK202.

The course is taught by Ismay Barwell and Ben Jeffares.

Ismay Barwell and Ben Jeffares are co-coordinators of the course.

Ismay has office hours between 2 p.m. and 4p.m. on Tuesdays or by appointment. Her room number is Murphy 713, her extension number is 8653 and her e-mail address is ismay.barwell@vuw.ac.nz. She is most reliably contacted by email.

Ben has office hours between 1.30 p.m. and 3.30pm on Thursdays. His room number is Murphy 702, his extension number is 8503, and his e-mail address is ben.jeffares@vuw.ac.nz.

Communication of additional information

The course is available on Blackboard.

Additional information and announcements will be given out in lectures and put on Blackboard.

Course content

A selection of philosophical issues concerning sex and sexuality will be presented. Firstly, explanatory theories of gender, sex and sexuality offered by psychoanalysts, biologists, socio-biologists, and social scientists. Secondly, issues in the politics and ethics of sexuality.

Learning objectives

Students will be expected to attend lectures, take part in the discussion and keep up with the reading. Those who pass the course should have an enhanced capacity for critical analysis and a deeper understanding of contemporary social issues concerning sexuality. They should be able to explain and evaluate the theories and controversies to which they have been introduced.

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>

As with all POLS and INTP courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific attributes in the areas of critical thinking, creative thinking, communication and leadership. Please consult the Programme Prospectus 2009, p. 10, for more details or on our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/pols/>

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to this course. This includes 3 hours of lectures per week.

Essential texts:

The PHIL/POLS 269 Coursebook contains all the required reading. It is distributed from the Student Notes Shop on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Assessment requirements

The course is assessed on the basis of two short essays, the best five of eight short answer quizzes and one long essay.

Short essays

Both short essays will be written in the first hour of class time.

The first will take place during class time on Thursday, April 2nd.

The second will take place on Thursday, May 14th.

The question for each short essay is designed to test the students' understanding of a topic covered in the preceding weeks of the course.

Each short essay should be about 1500 words long.

Each short essay counts for 20% of the final grade

The question for the first test is:

- 'Social construction' is a name given to two different kinds of explanation. Both kinds involve social processes and practices. Human sexuality has been the object of both kinds of explanation.
1. Explain the two modes of construction and give an example of each.
 2. Explain and assess at least one objection to each

The question for the second test is:

How might changes in reproductive costs impact on social relationships?

The questions for the two short essays are also included in the syllabus.

You will be allowed to take one side of A4 handwritten **notes** into the test with you.

These must be handed in with your essay answers.

NB: If for any reason you are prevented from taking the test at the appointed time, then get in touch with Ismay or Ben immediately for guidance and instructions. Normally a medical certificate is required.

Short Answer Quizzes

Students will have the opportunity to do eight short answer quizzes on reading set for classes. The best five will count towards the final grade. The short answer quizzes are worth 4% each. The best five are worth 20% of the final grade.

Long Essay

The long essay will be written outside class time.

It is due June 5th.

The long essay must be presented by the due date unless an extension has been granted by either Ismay or Ben.

The questions for the long essays are designed to enable students to explore in depth a topic that has particularly interested them.

The long essays should be no less than 2500 and no more than 3500 words.

Questions for the long essays will be posted on Blackboard and given out in class early in the trimester.

The marking criteria for all four pieces of written work are the same.

1. A philosophical or political issue should be analysed. This means it should be stated and explained clearly. (Why is there a puzzle or a problem? How does it arise? What does it presuppose?)
2. Alternative positions should be described and evaluated. These must include some discussed in class and in the reading set for the course. In the short essays evidence of extra research is not expected. In the long essay evidence of extra research is sometimes desirable.
3. An argument for a conclusion should be presented in an orderly way. It should support the conclusion.
4. The conclusion should be stated clearly. (Has the problem or puzzle been solved or dissolved? If not, why not? Are any of the alternative positions satisfactory? If not, why not? Does the solution to one problem give rise to another?)

Return of assignments

Assignments will be returned in class time. Those not collected in class time will be kept in Ben or Ismay's office.

Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays without an extension. Essays submitted after 5p.m. on the due date will be penalised 10 points per week. No essays will be accepted after June 19th.2009.

The first 3500 words of any long essay will be read and the essay will be graded on them. Any extra words will not be read.

Mandatory course requirements

To gain a pass in this course each student must submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)

Statement on legibility

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

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.