TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

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

<mark>PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME</mark>
PHIL 404: Value Theory
2009 FULL YEAR

Course Delivery

The course is taught in one two hour session each week for eighteen weeks from the week beginning 2nd March to the week beginning 17th August.The class is held in is takes place between 9.00 and 10.50 a.m. on Fridays in Murphy (MY) LT103.

The course is taught by Ramon Das, Ismay Barwell and Simon Keller.
Ismay Barwell is the course co-coordinator.
Ismay has office hours between 2 p.m. and 4p.m. on Tuesdays or by appointment. Her room number is 713, Murphy, her extension number is 8653 and her e-mail address is ismay.barwell@vuw.ac.nz. She is most reliably contacted by email.

Ramon has office hours between 9 a.m. and 11a.m. on Mondays. His room number is Murphy 608, his extension number is 5038, and his e-mail address is ramon.das@vuw.ac.nz

Simon has not arrived in the country yet so his details will be supplied later.

Communication of additional information

All the 400-level courses are on the *Honours **BlackBoard** website.*
Course outlines, lecture notes, readings, and all additional information for the course can be found there.
Students should submit their essays through this site.

Course content

In the first six weeks Ramon will introduce topics in ethical theory. In the second six Ismay will introduce issues about the aesthetic appreciation of natural and human environments. In the final six weeks Simon will teach topics in political philosophy.

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 some contemporary issues in the areas 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

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 20 hours per week to this course. This includes 2 contact hours a week for 18 weeks.

Essential texts:

The set text for Ramon's section of the course is

Contemporary Debates in Moral Theory
Edited by James Dreier
Blackwell Publishing, 2006
ISBN 1-4051-0179-2

Ismay will make available a set of readings for her section of the course.

The readings for Simon's section of the course will be announced later.

Assessment requirements

The course is assessed on the basis of three essays all of equal value.

The dates for their submission have been set by Sondra Bacharach, the co-ordinator of graduate studies.
Essay 1 is due by 5pm on Monday 13 July.
Essay 2 is due by 5pm on Monday 7 September.
Essay 3 is due by 5pm on Monday 2 November.

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

The essays should be approximately 3000 words long.

Students must do one essay from each section of the course.

Please hand in all essays/assignments on the *Honours* **BlackBoard** *website*.

Extensions will only be granted for serious documented reasons (e.g. illness or

injury). Extensions must be obtained from Sondra Bacharach prior to the due date, unless unforeseeable circumstances prevent this.

Penalties

Late essays will be penalised by five points per week (e.g. from 80 to 75 for an essay that is one week late).

Marking criteria

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.
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 the offices of the lecturer for whom they were written.

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.