

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

**PHILOSOPHY 105: THE BIG QUESTIONS**

**TRIMESTER 2 2009**

13 July to 15 November 2009

<b>Course Coordinator:</b> David Eng <b>Room:</b> MY 716 <b>Phone:</b> 463-5699 <b>Email:</b> david.eng@vuw.ac.nz <b>Office Hours:</b> Wed., Thurs: 2-3	<b>Lecturer:</b> Dan Turton <b>Room:</b> MY 715 <b>Phone:</b> 463-5233, ext. 8651 <b>Email:</b> dan.turton@vuw.ac.nz <b>Office Hours:</b> Thurs. 2:10-3
<b>Lecturer:</b> Jay Shaw <b>Room:</b> MY 613 <b>Phone:</b> 463 5233, ext. 8936 <b>Email:</b> jay.shaw@vuw.ac.nz <b>Office Hours:</b> M,W, 12-2	<b>Lecturer:</b> Stuart Brock <b>Room:</b> MY 312 <b>Phone:</b> 463-6970 <b>Email:</b> stuart.brock@vuw.ac.nz <b>Office Hours:</b> MWF, 11-12
<b>Lecturer:</b> Ken Perszyk <b>Room:</b> MY 718 <b>Phone:</b> 463-7410 <b>Email:</b> ken.perszyk@vuw.ac.nz <b>Office Hours:</b> By appointment	

**Note:** The Philosophy Programme's main office is located in Murphy Building (MY) Room 518 and the phone number is 463-5368.

**LECTURE OUTLINE**

Weeks 1-2	Dan Turton	Introduction, Personal Identity
Weeks 3-4	David Eng	Consciousness and the Mind/Body Problem
Weeks 5-6	Jay Shaw	Nature of Human Beings, Law of Karma and Concepts of Harmony
Weeks 7-8	Stuart Brock	Free Will and Determinism
Weeks 9-10	Ken Perszyk	Time Travel
Week 11	Ken Perszyk	Death
Week 12	Dan Turton	Meaning of Life

**LECTURES:** Lectures are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in Macluarin (MC) LT 101 from 10:00-10:50 am.

**TUTORIAL TIMES AND VENUES:** Students are strongly encouraged to sign up for weekly tutorials using S-Cubed. Information about S-Cubed can be found by clicking the course information icon in the blackboard course menu. Tutorials commence in the **second** week of the course. Information about the tutors and their contact information will be posted on Blackboard.

**COURSE DELIVERY:** This course involves three lectures per week, and one tutorial. Attendance for both lectures and tutorials is strongly encouraged but not mandatory.

**COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information about or changes to the course will be conveyed to students via class Blackboard.

**COURSE CONTENT:** This course is an introduction to some central problems of philosophy. Topics will include: Are you the same person you were 10 years ago? Are humans nothing but complex physical systems? Are we ever free and responsible? Is time travel possible? Can death be bad for the one who dies? Does life have any meaning or purpose?

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Students passing the course should have a good understanding of, and ability to evaluate, arguments and issues from several areas of philosophy. Students who pass this course should also have a solid foundation for further work in the discipline, and be able to think more carefully and critically about a range of philosophical issues.

**GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES:** As with all PHIL courses, the 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. For more details please consult our website [www.victoria.ac.nz/phil/degrees/index.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/phil/degrees/index.aspx)

**EXPECTED WORKLOAD:** During the twelve teaching weeks of trimester, there will be four contact hours a week. Independent working hours during teaching weeks should average at eight hours per week. Independent work during other periods (preparing for the test and exam, and writing up the assignment) should equal roughly 36 hours in total.

**READINGS - ESSENTIAL TEXTS:** Students must purchase the PHIL 105 Course Book. For the first two weeks of the trimester, all undergraduate student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer. After week two, all undergraduate student notes will be sold from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes 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. Customers will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

**ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS:** The assessment for PHIL 105 will be based on:

- (a) **In-Class Test:** The in-class test is worth **15%** of the total course marks. The test will be on **Friday, 7 August 2009** during lecture time (10:00-10:50). Note that this is the only time the test can be sat. If you are unable to sit the test for a legitimate medical reason, you should contact David Eng as soon as possible with the relevant supporting documentation.
- (b) **Essay:** The essay is worth **30%** of the total course marks. The essay should be approximately **2,000 words**, and is due at **4:00 pm** on **Friday 18 September 2009**. Further information about the essay will be available on Blackboard.
- (c) **Final Exam:** The final exam is worth **55%** of the total course marks. It is a **closed-book, three hour**, registry-administered exam. The exam will be divided into four sections. Students will be required to answer 4 questions from at least 3 sections.

Further information about the exam will be available on “Blackboard.” The date of the examination is set later in the trimester by the Registrar but will fall within the date range of **27 October to 15 November**. Students are required to be available to take the exam at any point during this period.

**PENALTIES:** Late essays, without an approved extension, will be penalised **one full letter grade per week** and will also receive no comments. An approved extension may be granted only with the (prior) approval of the course coordinator, David Eng, and only for legitimate reasons. Procrastination is not a legitimate ground for an extension.

**MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Each PHIL 105 student must submit the essay by the specified date (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of written work).

### **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>

### **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.

### **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>

The AVC(Academic) 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. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>