

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
 PHIL 104: ARGUMENT AND ANALYSIS**

TRIMESTER 1 2010
 1 March to 4 June 2010

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 1 March 2010 to 4 June 2010

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Names and contact details

The contact details of the lecturers are listed below:

Cei Maslen (Course Coordinator) MY 707 463-6524 Cei.Maslen@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: Mon 10-11am and by appt	Nick Agar MY 601 463-5064 Nick.Agar@vuw.ac.nz	Dan Turton MY 715 463-5233-8651 Dan.Turton@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: Thurs 2-3pm	John Matthewson john.matthewson@gmail.com Office Details t.b.a.
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The contact details of the tutors are listed below:

Lee Bremner leelienbremner@yahoocoo.co.nz MY 704 463 5233 x8596 Office Hours: Fri 3-4	Rose Cook rose_e_cook@yahoo.co.nz MY 704 463 5233 x8596 Office Hours: Thurs 1-2	Chiara Ferrario Chiara.Ferrario@vuw.ac.nz MY 708 463 5233 x 8937 Office Hours: Wed 2-3	Gareth Leniston-Lee leniston.lee@gmail.com MY 712 463 5233 x8959 Office Hours: Tues 2-3
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Class times and locations

Lecture time: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 12:00-12:50 in first trimester.
 Lecture venue: MCLT103

Tutorial Times and Venues:

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.*

There are 9 tutorial times :

1. Tuesdays 9-10am, OK501
2. Tuesdays 9-10am, MY 103
3. Wednesdays 9-10am, MY103
4. Wednesdays 10-11am, MY 103
5. Wednesdays 2-3pm, OK501
6. Wednesdays 4-5pm, KK107
7. Thursdays, 9-10am, KK204
8. Thursdays, 10-11am, CO216
9. Thursdays, 4-5pm, MY103

Using S-Cubed:

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: If you do not sign up during the first week of trimester, you may be extremely limited in your choice of tutorial time. The sign-up programme is only available until 19 March 2010. If you have problems please see the Philosophy Programme Administrator, Murphy Building, 5th Floor, MY518.

Course delivery

There will be three two-hour lectures per week. Students will be expected to have done some set reading for each lecture. There will be one one-hour tutorial per week, commencing with the second-week of the course. Attendance at tutorials is not compulsory, but is strongly recommended.

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be conveyed to students, for example via Blackboard.

Course content

The course is divided into four sections.

Section 1 (Ceil Maslen): 9 lectures (2 March- 19 March)

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

Section Two. (Nick Agar): 9 lectures (23 March- 23 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 (Dan Turton): 9 lectures (27 April- 14 May)

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

Section Four (John Matthewson): 9 lectures (17 May – 4 June)

This section covers some basic issues in the philosophy of science. We'll examine the problem of induction and the distinction between science and pseudo-science.

Learning 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. For more details please consult our website 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 13 hours per week to PHIL 104. This includes 3 hours of lectures per week and one tutorial

Readings

Essential texts: This course has a required course reader available from Student Notes for \$26.50.

During the first two weeks of trimester, students notes are sold from Level 1 of the Memorial Theatre, next to the Student Union Building. At other times, Student Notes are sold through the Student Notes Distribution Centre, ground floor, Student Union Building, tel 0-4-463 6621. The Student Notes Distribution Centre is open Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to studentnotes@vicbooks.co.nz.

If Student Notes runs out of course readers before you purchase yours then please order another one from them and inform the course co-ordinator of the delay.

Your lecturers will tell you which readings you are required to read before each class.

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 26 March*. The essay will be due by *12 noon on Friday May 14th*

Essay Question:

The **essay**, of approximately 2,000 words, is due by *12 noon on Friday May 14th*. The essay question is as follows:

Describe what you take to be the most powerful argument in favour of moral relativism.
Is this argument sound?

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 (Monday 7 June to Wednesday 30 June 2010). The examination paper will be divided into four sections, one for theory of knowledge; one for moral philosophy; one for philosophy and religion, and one for philosophy of science. Students must answer four questions, no two of which may be from the same section. All questions will have equal value. A short handout confirming arrangements for the final exam will be posted on *Blackboard* near the end of trimester.

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 have 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

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. His or her name and contact details will be posted on blackboard. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

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_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx