TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY 301
THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

TRIMESTER 1 2010
1 March to 4 July 2010

Trimester dates
Teaching dates: 1 March 2010 to 4 June 2010
Mid-trimester break: 5 April to 18 April 2010
Study week: 7 June to 11 June 2010
Examination/Assessment period: 11 June to 4 July2010

Withdrawal dates
Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds.aspx

Names and contact details
Course coordinator/lecturer (2nd 6 weeks): Dr. David Eng
Office room: Murphy (MY) 716
Office phone: 463 5699
Office hours: Tuesdays, 10-11

Lecturer (1st 6 weeks): Prof. Max Cresswell
Office room: MY 721
Office phone: 463 6902
Office hours: 1st six weeks, Tuesdays, 14:00-15:00, 2nd six weeks, Wednesdays, 12:00-13:00

Class times and locations
Lecture times and venues:
Tuesdays, 13:10-14:00, Hunter LT 119
Thursdays, 13:10-15:00, Murphy LT 101

Course delivery
This course will involve 2 lectures per week. There are no tutorials for this class. Attendance
is strongly encouraged but not mandatory.

Communication of additional information
Additional information and changes related to the course will be conveyed to students via
Blackboard.

Course content

This course will consist of a survey of historical and contemporary thinkers in the western philosophical tradition. Authors to be studied will include Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, Berkley, Hume, Mill, Bonjour, and Goldman.

Learning objectives

Students passing the course should be able to demonstrate a broad knowledge of and an ability to critically analyse some of the central philosophical issues in epistemology and theories of knowledge.

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

The workload for this course is 200 hours in total.

Readings

Essential texts:

Students must purchase the PHIL 301 Course Book. For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes 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 or can email an order or enquiry to 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

PHIL 301 is assessed on the basis of essays and an in-class comprehensive test:

a) *Essays (60%):* There are two essays, each worth 30% of your overall final grade. The essays test your ability to critically analyse some of the key issues covered in class. The essays should be a maximum of 2,000 words. The essays must be submitted electronically to Blackboard; a hard copy is not required. The essay topics will be made available on the assignments page of Blackboard.

       1st Essay – due 5:00 p.m., 11 May
       2nd Essay – due 5:00 p.m., 15 June

b) *In-Class Comprehensive Test (40%):* There will be an in-class 2 hr. comprehensive test on the last day of class (3 June). The test will involve essay questions and assess whether you have acquired knowledge and understanding of the material that was covered over the course of the whole class.

Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 2.5% for each day. Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In these cases, you must notify the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory requirements for this course.

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. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

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.

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/avcacademic/Publications.aspx