



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

### Philosophy PHIL 318 Philosophy of Science CRN 1044

**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

Last piece of assessment due 20 June 2010

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

#### **Names and contact details**

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Office Hours: by appointment

#### **Class times and locations**

Lectures: Tuesday and Friday 11-12:30

Venue: Hunter HU113

There are no separate tutorials for this course.

**Course delivery**

This course will consist of two lectures per week. Students are encouraged to interject their questions or comments.

**Communication of additional information**

Additional information will be communicated during lectures and on the course Blackboard site.

**Course content**

This is a course in philosophy of science. Roughly, the course is broken into three parts. The first part of the course is a historical survey of philosophy of science from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century until the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The second part of the course is a detailed look at the debate between realists and anti-realists about science. The third part of the course consists in some less detailed discussions of other important subjects such as the relationship between the sociology of science and philosophy of science, the nature of explanation, and the relationship between the various sciences.

**Learning objectives**

Students passing the course should be able to recall and understand the central philosophies of science and to understand and construct an intelligent position on the realist debate. They should also be able to explain and support their views clearly in the form of scholarly essays.

**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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/phil/degrees/index.aspx)

**Expected workload**

In accordance with Faculty of Humanities and Social Science guidelines, the overall workload for this course is 200 hours in total. The work will spread out fairly evenly over the trimester, but a student may find that he or she is spending more time on it near the due dates for essays. Obviously the time spent on work outside class will be an estimate for an average student but it will provide the basis for discussion when the reality is far from the expectation.

**Readings****Essential texts:**

Students must purchase the PHIL 318 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](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 grade is based entirely on 2 essays and a take home test. The two essays are worth 30% each and the take-home test is worth 40%. The essay topics will be posted on Blackboard as will the test questions. The test questions will be available on Tuesday 3 June.

Each essay is to be about 3000 words. The test will ask students to write two short essays (about 1500 words each)

Due dates:

1. Essay 1: 20 April.
2. Essay 2: 20 May
3. Take-home test: 20 June

### **Penalties**

There are no grade penalties for late work, but PLEASE NOTE that **Friday 4 June 2010** is the FINAL DATE on which any written work (except the test) can be accepted by the Programme, since this is the date on which we must determine whether students have met the course requirements. This means that the provision for late submission with a penalty does not apply beyond this date. Permission to submit work after 10 June must be sought in writing from the Head of Programme, and will only be granted for serious medical reasons (supported by medical certificate), or in case of serious personal crisis. Also, no essays that are turned in late will be given comments by the instructor (but will be given a grade).

### **Mandatory course requirements**

To gain a pass in this course each student must submit all the written work specified for this course by the due dates specified above (10 June for essays, 20 June for the take home test).

### **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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)