



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**PHILOSOPHY
PHIL104: ARGUMENT AND ANALYSIS**

TRIMESTER 1 2011
28 February to 2 July 2011

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 28 February to 3 June 2011

Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 1 May 2011

Study week: 6–10 June 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 10 June to 2 July 2011

Please note that this course will have an examination during the university examination period. You should make sure that you will be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the examination period.

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 for the Course Coordinator and other teaching staff:

Jay Shaw (Course Coordinator)

Office room: Murphy 613

Office phone: 4635233, ext 8936

Home phone: 4764975

Email: Jay.Shaw@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Mondays 3-5pm and by appointment

Sondra Bacharach

Office room: Murphy 711

Office phone: 463 5178

Email: Sondra.Bacharach@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Mon & Wed 11-12noon and by appointment

Ramon Das

Office room: Murphy 608

Office phone: 463 5038

Email: Ramon.Das@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Mon 9-10am and by appointment

Simon Keller
Office room: Murphy 720
Office phone: 463 9638
Email: Simon.Keller@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Tues 10-11

Dan Weijers
Office room: Murphy 715
Office phone: 463 5233, ext 8651
Email: Dan.Weijers@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Thur 2.10-3pm

John Matthewson
Office room: Murphy 719
Office phone: 463 5233, ext 8642
Email: John.Matthewson@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Thur 3-4pm

Tutors of this course:

Daniel Burkett
Chiara Ferrario
Gareth Leniston-Lee
Mai-Tal Kennedy
Brendan Vize

Their contact details will be announced in the tutorials.

Class times and locations

Lecture time: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9:00 – 9:50am
Lecture venue: HM LT206

Tutorial Times and Venues:

Tutorials commence in the *second* week of the course, times to be announced. *Attendance at tutorials is not compulsory, but is strongly recommended. PHIL104 will use S-Cubed for Tutorial registration.*

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 2011. If you have problems please see the Philosophy Programme Administrator, Murphy Building, 5th Floor, MY518.

Course delivery

There will be three one-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.

Communication of additional information

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

Course content

An introduction to philosophy, paying special attention to the nature and analysis of argumentation. Topics may include: Does God exist? What, if anything can we know? Is morality relative? What's the difference between science and pseudo-science?

This course is divided into five sections:

Section 1 (Sondra Bacharach): Weeks 1-2, 6 lectures. This section addresses some accounts of knowledge and scepticism.

Section 2 (Ramon Das): Weeks 3-4, 6 lectures. In this section we will address two foundational questions about morality. First, is morality relative, or is there some universal truth about morality? Second, what reasons are there for one to act morally?

Section 3 (Dan Weijers): Weeks 5-6, 6 lectures. We will be discussing arguments that we have good reason to believe that God exists and arguments that we have good reason to believe that God does not exist.

Section 4 (Simon Keller): Weeks 7-10, 12 lectures. This section of the course will examine three questions in moral theory. What things are valuable? Can morality be derived from rationality? And, what does it mean to be a good person?

Section 5 (John Matthewson): Weeks 11-12, 6 lectures. Introduction to philosophy of science: in this part of the course we will attempt to figure out what makes a discipline scientific. Along the way we will encounter one of the most difficult problems in philosophy.

Learning objectives

The main objective 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 and 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/hppi/subjects/phil.aspx#grad-attributes

Expected workload

In accordance with the 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:

Students must purchase the PHIL 104 Course Book.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011, 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 of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from Vicbooks on Level 3 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 nominated collection points at each campus. 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 104 is assessed on the basis of one in-class test, one essay, and a final examination.

The final grade is determined as follows:

In-class test:	15%
Essay:	35%
Final Exam:	50%

The in-class test will be held during the lecture time on Friday 25th March 2011. The in-class test question is as follows:

Using your own example, present a version of the Gettier cases. Why are they counter-examples to the traditional definition of knowledge? Is there a solution? If so, what is it?

The essay of approximately 2000 words is due by 12 noon on Friday 15th April 2011. The essay question will be available on Blackboard.

You must submit your essay electronically via Blackboard (please consult Blackboard for instructions). The electronic version will be sent to turnitin.com, an anti-plagiarism website. As a back-up you must also submit a hard copy of your essay to the Philosophy Programme office (MY518).

The final examination is a closed-book, three-hour examination, to be held during the exam period from 10th June to 2nd July 2011. The exam paper will be divided into four sections. Students must answer four questions, taking one from each section. Hence they should not answer more than one question from the same section. All questions will have equal value.

Return of Assignments

In-class test papers will be available for collection from the main office of the Philosophy Programme (MY518) approximately two weeks after the test. They can be collected between 12-2pm. Essay results will be available on Blackboard approximately 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 Coordinator, and only in *exceptional* circumstances.

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. 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.

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic