SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY
106: Contemporary Ethics Issues

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

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
Lecturers:
Ramon Das (course coordinator)
Room: Murphy (MY) 608
Phone: 463 5038
Office hours: M 9-10 or by appt.

Sondra Bacharach
Room: MY 711
Phone: 463 5178
Office hours: M, W 11-12 or by appt.

Richard Joyce
Room: MY 716
Phone: 463 5699
Office hours: Tu. 1-2

Simon Keller
Room: MY 720
Phone: 463 9638
Office hours: by appt.

Steve Riley
Room: MY 705
Phone: 463 5233, x8939

Office hours: by appt.

Dan Weijers
Room: MY 715
Phone: 463 5233, x8651
Office hours: by appt.

Class times and locations
Lecture time[s]: M, W, F 2:10-3:00
Lecture venue[s]: Hugh Mackenzie LT 206

Course delivery
This course will involve 3 lectures and one tutorial per week. Attendance is strongly encouraged but not mandatory.

Communication of additional information
Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students via class Blackboard.

Course content
An introduction to issues in applied ethics. Topics may include: the morality of the death penalty, war, cloning, abortion and euthanasia, and the moral status of non-human animals. 50% internal assessment, 50% examination.

Learning objectives
Students passing the course should be able to should be able to demonstrate a broad introductory-level knowledge of and an ability to critically analyse some of the central philosophical issues in the topics covered in the course.

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
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/subjects/phil.aspx#grad-attributes

Expected workload
In accordance with Faculty of Humanities and Social Science guidelines, the overall workload for this course is 200 hours in total.

Readings:
All readings will be posted on Blackboard. They can be accessed under 'Course Materials.' Please consult the Announcements page for regular updates.

Assessment requirements
PHIL 106 is assessed on the basis of one in-class test, one essay, and a final exam:

(a)   *In-Class Test*: The in-class test, which is worth 15% of the final grade, is given during the usual lecture time on Monday, 28 March. The test consists of one question that should be answered in essay format. The test question can be found on Blackboard.

(b)   *Essay*: The essay is designed to test your ability to critically analyse one of the key issues discussed in class. The essay should be approximately 2,000 words and must be typed. It is worth 35% of the final grade. Essays must be submitted electronically to Blackboard; a hard copy is not required. The essay is due no later than 5:00pm on Friday, 13 May. The essay topics are available on the assignments page of Blackboard. **Please note that essay extensions will be granted only for doctor-verified medical reasons or other emergencies.**

(c)   *Final exam: The date and time will be announced later in the trimester, but it will fall sometime between 10 June and 2 July. The exam comprises four essay questions, and is worth 50% of the final grade.*

Penalties
Late essays will be penalized at the rate of 2 marks per day, including weekends. No essays will be accepted after 3 June.

Mandatory course requirements
There are no mandatory requirements for passing this course.

Class Representative
A class representative will be elected on the first day of class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator. The representative's contact details will be made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator, and the class.

Statement on legibility (applies to the in-class test and the final exam; the essay must be typed)

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, any 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.