



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

### **Philosophy PHIL 201 Theory of Knowledge CRN 1006**

**TRIMESTER 1 2011**  
28 March to 4 July 2011

#### **Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 28 February to 3 June 2011

Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 1 May 2011

Study week: 6 June to 10 June 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 11 June to 2 July 2011

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 First half of Trimester 1: Tuesdays 10-11 and 15:00-16:00

Second half of Trimester 1: By appointment

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

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 12-13:50

Venue: Alan McDiarmid Building AM102

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

This is a course in epistemology. Epistemology is the study of knowledge from a philosophical point of view. In this course, students will be taught both approaches to the question of nature of knowledge from the history of Western philosophy, beginning with Ancient Greek philosophy, and contemporary theories of knowledge.

## ***Learning objectives***

Students passing the course should be able to recall and understand the central theories of knowledge and to understand and construct an intelligent position on the debates about knowledge and justification. 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/hppi/subjects/phil.aspx#grad-attributes](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/subjects/phil.aspx#grad-attributes)

## **Expected workload**

A rough guideline to course workloads is that each point for a course equates to 10 hours of work over the trimester. This is a 20 point course, so a student should spend about 200 hours of work on it. 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:**

PHIL201 Course Notes sold at the Student Notes shop in the Student Union Building. 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 exam is worth 40%. The essay topics will be posted on Blackboard as will the test questions.

*The first essay is to be about material from the first half of the course and the second essay is to be about material from the second half of the course.* Each essay is to be about 2500 words. The exam will ask students to write two short essays (about 1000-1500 words each)

Due dates:

1. Essay 1: 15 April.
2. Essay 2: 20 May
3. Test: 13 June

### **Penalties**

Any essay that is handed in late without prior permission will be penalized by at least a half letter grade. Any essay that is handed in more than one week late will receive a full letter grade deducted from its mark. PLEASE NOTE that the instructors will not accept any essays handed in after **Friday 3 June 2011**. No late exams will be accepted at all except when there are serious medical reasons for the delay.

### **Mandatory course requirements**

To gain a pass in this course each student must submit all the written work specified 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.

### **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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).