



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**PHILOSOPHY
PHIL403 METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLOGY**

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
(Teaching for PHIL 403 will conclude on 18 August.)

Withdrawal dates

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

Lecturers

Simon Keller (course coordinator)
Office room: Murphy 720
Office phone: 463 9638
Email: Simon.Keller@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Tuesdays 11-12 (during first half of T1)

Max Creswell
Office room: Murphy 721
Office phone: 463 6902
Email: Max.Creswell@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Thursdays 1-2 (during second half of T1)

Stuart Brock
Office room: Murphy 721
Office phone: 463 6970
Email: Stuart.Brock@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Fridays 3-4 (during T2)

Class times and locations

Lecture time: Thursdays 10-12
Lecture venue: Murphy 617

Course delivery

The weekly meetings will include lecturing and discussion. There are no tutorials for this course.

Communication of additional information

There will be a course site on Blackboard, which will contain some readings and information about the course.

Course content

The first six weeks of the course will be taught by Simon Keller, on Descartes' *Meditations*. The next six weeks will be taught by Max Creswell, on Russell's *Philosophy of Logical Atomism* and Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*. The final six weeks will be taught by Stuart Brock, on fictionalism. More detailed information about the course content will be given in the first class.

Learning objectives

Students passing the course should advance their knowledge of several key areas of Philosophy. They should also advance their abilities to undertake logical and critical thinking. They should also practice and improve their critical writing skills.

Students are expected to attend classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading.

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 University's guideline for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the entire trimester, including time in class.

Readings

Essential texts:

Students should have access to a copy of Descartes' *Meditations*, and should bring it to each class. Copies are available in the university bookshop, and are also widely available elsewhere. The readings for Max Creswell's classes will be distributed by email. The readings for Stuart Brock's classes will be placed on Blackboard.

Assessment requirements

1. A 3-3500 word essay on Simon's section of the course, due on Monday 9 May.
 2. A 3-3500 word essay on Max's section of the course, due on Monday 11 July.
 3. A 3-3500 word essay on Stuart's section of the course, due on Monday 19 September.
- Each essay is worth 1/3 of your final grade.

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.