

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**PHILOSOPHY
PHIL404 VALUE THEORY**

TRIMESTER 1 2011
28 February to 2 July 2011

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 28 Feb to 3 June
Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 1 May
Study week: 6-10 June
Examination/Assessment period: 10 June to 2 July
(Teaching for PHIL404 will conclude on 16 August.)

Withdrawal dates

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

Lecturers

Richard Joyce (course coordinator)
Office room: Murphy 716
Office phone: 463 5699
Email: Richard.Joyce@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Tuesdays 1-2

Sondra Bacharach
Office room: Murphy 711
Office phone: 463 5178
Email: Sondra.Bacharach@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Mon and Wed 11-12 and by apt.

Ramon Das
Office room: Murphy 608
Office phone: 463 5038
Email: Ramon.Das@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Mondays 9-10

Class times and locations

Lecture time: Tuesdays 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 Sondra Bacharach, on Dom Lopes' *A Philosophy of Computer Art* (Routledge, 2009). In this book, Lopes argues that computer art is a new art form. While it is true that digital encoding is having an enormous impact on traditional arts, the essence of the computer is not digital encoding. Rather, computers run computational processes or algorithms that enable them to modify a display based on input. Computer art takes advantage of this to achieve interactivity, where the audience of a work has a part to play in how the work unfolds. Billions of people already know computer art through video games, and Lopes shows how highbrow computer artists work with the same basic materials and opportunities as video game designers.

The next six weeks will be taught by Ramon Das, on Richard Miller's book *Globalizing Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2010). Miller develops a new account of international justice. Amongst the questions he addresses are: What must be done to avoid exploitation in transnational manufacturing? What would be a fair framework for world trade and investment? What duties do we have to avoid global warming? What obligations are created by uses of American violence to sustain American global power?

The final six weeks will be taught by Richard Joyce, on Mark Schroeder's book *Noncognitivism in Ethics* (Routledge, 2010). Beginning with a general introduction to metaethics, Schroeder introduces and assesses three principal kinds of noncognitivist theory: the speech-act theories of Ayer, Stevenson, and Hare, the expressivist theories of Blackburn and Gibbard, and hybrid theories. He pays particular attention both to the philosophical problems about what moral facts could be about or how they could matter which noncognitivism seeks to solve, and to the deep problems that it faces, including the task of explaining both the nature of moral thought and the complexity of moral attitudes, and the "Frege-Geach" problem.

Learning objectives

Students passing the course should advance their knowledge of several key areas of value theory. They should also advance their abilities to undertake logical and critical thinking, especially as it pertains to value theory. 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 will need access to all three aforementioned books. Some copies of Lopes and Schroeder have been ordered at vicbooks, but students will usually be able to find cheaper sources independently. The first chapter or so of Lopes' *A Philosophy of Computer Art* will be posted on Blackboard.

Assessment requirements

1. A 3-3500 word essay on Sondra's section of the course, due Monday 9 May.
 2. A 3-3500 word essay on Ramon's section of the course, due Monday 11 July.
 3. A 3-3500 word essay on Richard's section of the course, due Monday 19 Sept.
- Each essay is worth 1/3 of the 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.