



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

**Philosophy Programme**

**Phil 208: Special Topic: Non-Western Philosophy**

**TRIMESTER 2 2011**

11 July to 12 November 2011

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 11 July to 14 October 2011

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2011

Study week: 17–21 October 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 21 October to 12 November 2011

Please note that this course will have an examination during the university examination period.

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**Lecturer:** Dr J L Shaw  
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**Email:** jay.shaw@vuw.ac.nz  
**Office Hours:** Mondays and Tuesdays 12.00 – 2.00 pm

**Class time and location:**

**Lecture Time:** Mondays and Tuesdays 4.10pm – 6.00 pm  
**Lecture Venue:** HMLT 001

**Course Delivery:**

This course will involve two 2-hour lectures per week. Students are encouraged to take part in discussion.

**Communication of additional information:**

Any additional information or handouts will be announced, circulated in the lectures or via Blackboard.

**Prescription:**

This course will focus on some of the distinctive features of Indian and Chinese Philosophy, including Buddhism and Confucianism. A comparison with Maori and Pacific notions of self, nature and values may also be made. Other non-Western views may also be considered, eg Tibetan or African. 40% internal assessment, 60% examination.

**Course content:**

The course aims to introduce students not only to the specific arguments of Indian and Chinese philosophers on topics such as causality, suffering, values, harmony and freedom of human being, but also to questions and contemporary issues relevant to philosophy in general. The course will also emphasise some of the distinctive features of Asian and Maori philosophy such as the goals of life and our duties towards other beings. See separate handout entitled 'Reading List and Course Outline'.

**Learning objectives:**

By the end of the course, students should:

- (a) Be familiar with some of the systems of Indian, Chinese and Maori philosophy;
- (b) Be aware of their metaphysical and ethical positions;
- (c) Be able to compare and contrast the arguments of philosophers from different standpoints.

**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:**

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

**Readings****Essential texts:**

Students should purchase the Phil 208 Course Book.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 4 to 22 July 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 4 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 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:**

One three-hour examination, carrying 60% of the final assessment, and one essay, carrying 40% of the final assessment. The final examination is open-book and the examination/assessment period is from 21 October to 12 November 2011.

The essay will emphasise both the critical thinking and the in-depth research of the students on some of the topics discussed in the class. The final exam will focus on general

comprehension and understanding of the subject. Hence it will supplement the in-depth research of the students. The exam will also demonstrate familiarity with systems of non-Western philosophy. As a result, students will be able to compare and contrast the arguments of philosophers.

**Final Essay:** The final essay will be due on 9 September 2011. The essay may not exceed 3,000 words. Overlaps between exam and essay topics are to be avoided.

### **METHOD OF SUBMISSION:**

All final essays are to be submitted digitally in Blackboard.

#### **Directions for submission via Blackboard:**

- (1) click on the 'Assignments' icon in the course menu (to the left of the page).
- (2) select 'View/Complete Assignment' for the relevant assignment.
- (3) click the 'Browse' icon, and then select your essay.
- (4) then click 'Submit'.

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 2% for each day. Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In these cases, you must notify the course coordinator as soon as possible.

#### **Penalties:**

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 2.5% for each day. Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In these cases, you must notify the course coordinator as soon as possible.

#### **Return of assignments:**

Initially all assignments will be returned in lectures. Uncollected assignment will be available from the Programme office (MY 518) Monday - Friday **between 2-3pm**. Essay results will be available on the Blackboard approximately 2 weeks after submission.

#### **Mandatory course requirements:**

All students enrolled in the course will be entitled to sit the final examination. Hence there are no mandatory course requirements.

#### **Attendance:**

Students are advised to attend lectures and take an active role in discussion, although attendance is not a requirement for mandatory course requirements or assessment.

#### **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.

**Statement on legibility:**

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>

**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).

**ESSAY TOPICS:**

1. The nature of human beings.
2. Types of suffering.
3. Goals of life.
4. Buddhism on momentariness.
5. Concepts of harmony.
6. Righteous actions.
7. Freedom
8. Confucian ethics
9. The nature of a gentleperson
10. Maori values