TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 105: THE BIG QUESTIONS

TRIMESTER 2 2012
16 July to 17 November 2012

Trimester dates

Teaching dates:	16 July to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Study week:	22–26 October 2012
Examination/Assessment Period:	26 October to 17 November 2012

Note: Students who enrol in this course must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: See:
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds.aspx

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator:	**Dr Ramon Das**
Room:	Murphy Building, MY 608
Phone:	463 5038
Email:	ramon.das@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours:	Mon 10:30-11:30 and by appt.

Tutor Contact Details:	
Tutor:	**Simon Bunckenburg**
Room:	Murphy Building, MY704
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Tutor:	**Gareth Leniston-Lee**
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Tutor: **Udayan Mukharjee**
Room: Murphy Building, MY712
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Office Hours: F 11-12

Tutor: **Agata Orlowicz**
Room: Murphy Building, MY706
Phone: ext 8938
Email: agata.orlowicz@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: TBA

Class times and locations
Lectures/Venue: M, W, F, Memorial Theatre 228 (MT 228), **12-12.50pm**

Tutorial Times and Venues: as shown in S-cubed. Tutorials commence in the **second** week of the course.

PHIL105 will use S-Cubed for tutorial registration.
Use your internet browser to go to: **https://signups.vuw.ac.nz**.
Use your normal **student login** and **password** to sign into S-Cubed.
Click on **"PHIL105"** You will see info about your course and about the different tutorial sessions.
Sign up to your preferred session by clicking on the **"sign up"** button.

Please note: **This sign-up programme is only available in the first week of the trimester.** If you do not sign up during this time, you may be extremely limited in your choice of tutorial time. If you have any problems, check the handout you were given about S-cubed. If you still have problems please see Phillipa Race, the Philosophy Programme Administrator, Murphy Building, 5th Floor, MY518.

Additional Information
 Any additional information or notices about this course will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Prescription
This course considers some of the most important and difficult questions about life and humanity. Topics may include: What is the meaning of life? Does life have any meaning? Is there a God? Are we free? Is there a single true morality? Is there life after death? What is happiness?

Course content
1. Philosophy of Religion. Weeks 1-4, 10 lectures. We examine arguments for God's existence based on how the world around us seems well-designed; whether it is rational to believe in God; and what the existence of evil in the world says about God's existence.

2. Moral relativism/Why be Moral? Weeks 4-6, 8 lectures. Is morality relative? If so, relative to what: persons, societies, God? If it's not relative, why not?   We will address these questions and some of their ethical consequences.

3. Free Will. Weeks 7-8, 6 lectures. We will look at the ancient problem of freedom of the will. In addition to examining the main traditional positions on this problem, we will look at a more contemporary challenge which asks whether freedom of the will is even a coherent concept.

4. Death and Immortality. Weeks 9-10, 6 lectures. Can death be bad for the one who is dead? Would living forever (immortality) be good for us? Is life after (bodily) death possible?

5. Global Justice. Weeks 11-12, 6 lectures. Everyone seems to agree that there is a great deal of injustice in the world. What would make the world a more just place? We examine this question by looking at the topics of global poverty and global economic justice.

Course delivery
The course is taught in three fifty-minute lectures and one fifty-minute tutorial per week. Students will be expected to attend lectures and tutorials, take part in the discussion and keep up with the reading.

Learning objectives
Students passing this course should acquire an adequate understanding of, and ability to evaluate, some arguments and issues discussed in several areas of philosophy. The course should provide a solid foundation for further work in the discipline, and also help students think more carefully and critically about a wider range of issues.

Graduate attributes
As with all Philosophy 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/about/overview-of-the-school/phil-overview#grad-attributes

Expected workload
In accordance with University guidelines, the overall workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours spread over the entire trimester. This includes the time spent in lectures and tutorials, with the rest spent preparing assignments, reading the set text[s], and revising for tests and exams.

Readings

Essential text:

You should purchase the PHIL105 coursebook. All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 9–27 July 2012, 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 or can email an order or enquiry to 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

The assessment will be based on one in-class test, one essay and a final examination.
The **in-class test** is worth **15%** of the total course mark; the **essay** is worth **35%;** and the **exam** is worth **50**%.

Tutorial Attendance

Tutorial attendance is **mandatory.** You can miss up to two tutorials without penalty.

In-Class Test:

The in-class test will consist of <u>one</u> question, to be answered in class on **20 August from 12.00-12.50pm**. It is worth **15%** of the total course mark.

In-Class Test question:

Explain and evaluate the Argument from Evil. Your answer must discuss some of the relevant readings covered in lectures.

There will be no make-up tests. The penalty for cheating is a zero mark. Extreme cases may result in University academic disciplinary procedures being invoked.

(ii) Essay:

The essay should be of approximately **2,000 words and is worth 35%** of the total course mark. It is due by **5pm on Friday 28 September.** The essay question will be posted on Blackboard during the third week of lectures.

Note: All essays will be submitted to turnitin.com

(iii) Final Exam:

The final examination is a **closed-book**, **three-hour,** examination held during the exam period (26 October-17 November). Students must answer four questions. All questions have equal

marks value. The examination is worth 50% of the total course marks. Further information about the final exam will be posted on "Blackboard" as details become available.

Penalties
Late essays, without extension, will be penalised ten points per week. No essays will be accepted after 19 October. An extension can be granted only with the **prior** approval of the course coordinator, and only in **exceptional** circumstances. Procrastination is not a legitimate ground for an extension, so plan accordingly. If you have other assignments due around the same time, plan ahead.

Mandatory course requirements
To gain a pass in this course each student must:
- Attend 9 out 11 tutorials

Return of marked course work
Essays and tests are normally returned in tutorials at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the School Office, Room 518, Murphy Building between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

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, tutors 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

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.