



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
PHIL 106: Contemporary Ethical Issues

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 courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period above.*

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) Murphy Bldg 713 463- 5699 richard.joyce@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours by appointment	Nick Agar Murphy Bldg 601 463-5046 nicholas.agar@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours by appointment
--	--

Tutors:

Terence Davidson terence.m.davidson@gmail.com Office Hours: Monday 11-12	Ewan Kingston ewan.kingston@gmail.com Office Hours by appointment
Rhydian Thomas rhydianwthomas@gmail.com Office Hours by appointment	Emma Wood emmawood85@gmail.com Office Hours by appointment

Class times and locations can be found on the VUW website at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/subjects/coursecatalogue.aspx>

It is advisable to check the above for any changes to the timetable programme.

Lecture Time: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10.00-10.50 am
Lecture Venue: MacLaurin (MC) LT103

Tutorials commence in the *second* week of the course.

PHIL 106 will use *S-Cubed* for Tutorial registration. These are the tutorial times and rooms:

Day	Start	End	Room
Tuesday	12:00	12:50	CO216
Friday	14:10	15:00	MY301
Thursday	15:10	16:00	OK301
Wednesday	09:00	09:50	OK523
Tuesday/Thursday	11:00	11:50	OK523
Tuesday	15:10	16:00	OK524
Friday	10:00	10:50	VZ105
Thursday	09:00	09:50	VZ107
Monday	11:00	11:50	VZ107
Thursday	12:00	12:50	VZ107
Wednesday	14:10	15:00	VZ107
Friday	09:00	09:50	VZ710

Using S-Cubed:

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 "*PHIL 106*" 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: If you do not sign up during the first week of trimester, you may be extremely limited in your choice of tutorial time. The sign-up programme is only available for a limited time. If you have problems please see the School Administrator, Murphy Bldg, 5th Floor, MY518

Teaching learning summary

PHIL 106 will involve three 50-minute lectures and one 50-minute tutorial per week. The presumption is that each student will attend all classes (so if information is given in lectures or tutorials, we will assume that all students have it).

Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard extensively and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding if necessary. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and tutorial programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the PHIL 106 Blackboard site.

Course prescription

An introduction to issues in applied ethics. Topics may include: the morality of the death penalty, war, cloning, abortion and euthanasia, and the moral status of non-human animals.

Course content

The course commences with several lectures on ethical theory, covering such topics as *Should we always act in a selfish manner?*, *Is moral relativism plausible?*, and *Where do our moral intuitions come from?* With some basic theoretical concepts under our belts, we then turn to the central part of the course, which covers various applied topics in moral philosophy: euthanasia, the death penalty, war, performance-enhancing drugs in sport (an Olympic year special), and genetic enhancement and human cloning. The first 4 weeks of the course are taught by Richard Joyce; the last 8 weeks by Nick Agar.

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to PHIL 106 throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures, and tutorial, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Readings

There is no textbook or course packet for PHIL106. Readings will be assigned every week, all of which will be posted on Blackboard. They can be accessed under 'Course Materials.' Please consult the Announcements page for regular updates.

Assessment requirements

PHIL 106 is assessed on the basis of one in-class test, one essay, and a final exam:

1. *In-Class Test*: The in-class test, which is worth 15% of the final grade, is given during a usual lecture time in Week 4. The test consists of one question that should be answered in essay format.
2. *Essay*: The essay is designed to test your ability to critically analyse one of the key issues discussed in class. The essay should be approximately 2,000 words and must be typed. It is worth 35% of the final grade. Essays must be submitted electronically to Blackboard; a hard copy is not required. The essay is due no later than 5:00pm on Friday, Sept 21. The essay topics are available on the assignments page of Blackboard. **Please note that essay extensions will be granted only for doctor-verified medical reasons or other emergencies.**
3. *Final exam*: The date and time will be announced later in the trimester, but it will fall sometime between 26 October and 17 November. The exam comprises four essay questions, and is worth 50% of the final grade.

The essay will assess your knowledge of the topics and ability to critically analyse the central philosophical issues. The in-class test will assess your knowledge of the material covered in lectures during the first part of the course, and the examination will focus on the comprehension and understanding of the topics covered throughout the course.

Penalties

Philosophy Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. For each week or part thereof of lateness, a late assignment gets a 5 point penalty, up to three weeks, after which the assignment will get a zero mark (i.e. 1-7 days late a loss of 5%; 8-14 days late a loss of 10 %; 15-21 days late a loss of 15%, and after that a zero.) Extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances, but **all extensions require the student to provide documentation**. If granted an extension, students must agree to a new due date. Contact your lecturer as soon as a problem emerges. Extension forms are available in the School office.

Return of marked course work

Essays and tests will be returned 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.

Learning objectives

Students passing this course should be able:

to demonstrate a broad introductory-level knowledge of and an ability to critically analyse some of the central philosophical issues in the topics covered in the course.

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>

Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, 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. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>. 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 Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.