



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME

PHIL 209/309: Special Topic: Non Western Philosophy

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>

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator:	Dr Jay Shaw
Room No.:	Murphy (MY) 613
Email:	jay.shaw@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours:	Wednesdays and Fridays 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Class times and locations

Can be found on the Victoria 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: Tuesday, Wednesday, 4.10 – 6.00 pm

Lecture Venue: Alan MacDiarmid (AM) LT105

Teaching learning summary

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

Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard 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. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and tutorial programme will be announced in lectures, and posted on the PHIL 209/309 Blackboard site.

Course 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, e.g. Tibetan or African.

Course content

The course aims to introduce students not only to the specific arguments of Indian and Chinese philosophers on topic 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 emphasize 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

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Be familiar with some of the systems of Indian, Chinese and Maori philosophy
2. Be aware of their metaphysical and ethical positions;
3. Be able to compare and contrast the arguments of philosophers from different standpoints

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 Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to PHIL 209/309 throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Group work

There is no assessed group work for this course.

Readings**Set texts:**

PHIL 209/309 Book of Readings available from vicbooks, Student Union Building.

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.

Recommended reading:

See separate handout entitled 'Reading List and Course Outline'.

Assessment requirements

200-level:

One three-hour final examination and one 3,000-word essay. The marks for the essay will determine 40% of the final assessment and the marks for the three-hour examination will determine 60% of the final assessment.

Essay for PHIL 209 Students:

The essay will be due on 23 September 2012 and may not exceed 3,000 words. Overlaps between exam and essay topics are to be avoided.

300-level:

One three-hour final registry examination and two 3,000-word essays. The marks for the essays will each determine 30% of the final assessment and the marks for the three-hour examination will determine 40% of the final assessment.

Essays for PHIL 309 Students:

The first essay will be due on 23 September and second will be due on 21 October 2012. Overlaps between exam and essay topics are to be avoided. Each essay may not exceed 3,000 words.

The essay[s] will emphasise both the critical thinking and the in-depth research of the students on some of the topics discussed in class. The final examination will focus on the comprehension or understanding of the subject, as the students will be answering several questions. Hence it will supplement the in-depth research of the students.

Examination dates for the second trimester 2012 are Friday 26 October to Saturday 17 November 2012 – see also Trimester Dates above.

ESSAY TOPICS:

1. The Nature of human beings.
2. Types of Suffering.
3. Buddhism on Meaning
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

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'.

Penalties

Philosophy Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. **Students lose 5% for the first day late and 2% thereafter for a maximum of 10 weekdays.** After 10 days, work can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. 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.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements.

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.

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>

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.