



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME
PHIL 224/324: Philosophy of Religion

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
Last piece of assessment due: 5 November
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: Ken Perszyk
Room No.: Murphy (MY) 718
Email: ken.perszyk@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Tues, Wed 4-4:45

Others:

Lecturer: Dave Gilbert
Room No.: Murphy (MY) 714
Email: David.Gilbert@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: tba

Lecturer: Brad Monton
Room No.: tba
Email: tba
Office hours: tba

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, 2.10 – 4.00 pm

Lecture Venue: Tuesday Hunter (HU) LT119
 Wednesday Murphy (MY) LT220

Teaching learning summary

The bi-weekly meetings will include lecturing and discussion. The in-class test will be held during a regular class time. There are no tutorials for this course.

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 224/324 Blackboard site.

Course prescription

An introduction to problems in contemporary analytical philosophy of religion, focusing on the Judeo-Christian conception of God, understood as an omnipotent, omniscient and morally perfect person. Is this concept coherent and consistent with other claims typically found in the Christian tradition?

Course content

The approximate sequence of topics will be:

Introduction – what is philosophy of religion?

Arguments for the existence of God:

The Cosmological Argument; The Design Argument; The Ontological Argument

Pascal's Wager Argument (for believing in God)

The Argument from Religious Experience

Miracles

The Argument from Scripture

Omnipotence; Omnipotence & Impeccability (perfect goodness)

Omniscience and the Foreknowledge-Free Will Problem

The Problem of Evil – the Logical and Evidential Argument From Evil; Theodicies

Hell

The Incarnation (time permitting)

Science & Religion

Learning objectives

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Explain key concepts discussed in contemporary analytical philosophy of religion;
2. Analyse and critically evaluate arguments found in the literature;
3. Write a well-structured essay explaining and defending their position on a debate in contemporary philosophy of religion.

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 224/324 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:

Required readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Additional readings will be listed or posted on Blackboard.

Assessment requirements

200 level:

1. A two-hour in-class test, worth 35% of the final grade, on 14 August. This test will be based on material covered by Dave Gilbert. Details of the test will be provided in lecture and posted on Blackboard. This piece of the assessment is related to Learning Objectives 1 and 2. There will be some short-answer questions on the test which will give early practice in developing the skills required for Learning Objective 3.
2. An essay **proposal** of approximately 500 words and no more than 750 words, worth 10% of the final grade, by 4:30pm on 5 October. The proposal should state clearly which topic you will write on for your final essay, describing the structure of the essay and its likely main conclusion(s). A bibliography (not included in the suggested word length) of works consulted in preparation for the essay must also be included. Additional information will be provided in lectures and posted on Blackboard. The main aim of this piece of assessment is to give you some feedback on the planning and writing of your final essay, i.e. to help achieve Learning Objective 3.
3. A take-home assignment, worth 15%, of the final grade, by 4:30pm on 19 October. This assignment will be based on material covered by Brad Monton in the four classes on 9, 10, 16 and 17 October. The details of the assignment will be distributed in due course and posted on Blackboard. This piece of assessment relates to Learning Objectives 1 and 2.
4. An essay of approximately 2500 words, worth 40% of the final grade, due by 4:30 pm on 9 November. Essay topics, including details on the required form of submission, will be distributed in due course during lectures and posted on Blackboard. The topics will come from the material covered by Ken Perszyk. This piece of assessment is directly related to Learning Objective 3. The essay is due during the examination period to give you more time to write the essay in light of feedback provided on your essay proposal.

300 level:

1. A two-hour in-class test, worth 35% of the final grade, on 14 August. This test will be based on material covered by Dave Gilbert. Details of the test will be provided in lecture and posted on Blackboard. This piece of the assessment is related to Learning Objectives 1 and 2. There will be some short-answer questions on the test which will give early practice in developing the skills required for Learning Objective 3.
2. An essay **proposal** of approximately 500 words and no more than 750 words, worth 10% of the final grade, by 4:30pm on 5 October. The proposal should state clearly which topic you will

write on for your final essay, describing the structure of the essay and its likely main conclusion(s). A bibliography (not included in the suggested word length) of works consulted in preparation for the essay must also be included. Additional information will be provided in lectures and posted on Blackboard. The main aim of this piece of assessment is to give you some feedback on the planning and writing of your final essay, i.e. to help achieve Learning Objective 3

3. A take-home assignment, worth 15%, of the final grade, by 4:30pm on 19 October. This assignment will be based on material covered by Brad Monton in the four classes on 9, 10, 16 and 17 October. The details of the assignment will be distributed in due course and posted on Blackboard. This piece of assessment relates to Learning Objectives 1 and 2.
4. An essay of between 3000 and 3500 words, worth 40% of the final grade, due by 4:30 pm on 9 November. Essay topics, including details on the required form of submission, will be distributed in due course during lectures and posted on Blackboard. The topics will come from the material covered by Ken Perszyk. This piece of assessment is directly related to Learning Objective 3. The essay is due during the examination period to give you more time to write the essay in light of feedback provided on your essay proposal.

Penalties

There will be no make-up test for the in-class test on 14 August. Extensions on other assignments or essays may be granted in exceptional circumstances, but only with the prior approval of the course coordinator and/or with the provision of documentation. Late assignments or essays are penalised 5% per day for the first five days. No assignment or essay will be accepted after that.

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

Plagiarism also includes “Self-Plagiarism”, e.g. submitting work for assessment in this course that you have submitted for another course.

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.