

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 301: THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE**

**TRIMESTER 1 2012
5 March to 4 July 2012**

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 5 March to 8 June 2012

Mid-trimester break: 6–22 April 2012

Study week: 11–15 June 2012

Examination/Assessment Period: 15 June to 4 July 2012

Please note that as the university has not yet set examination dates, 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.

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

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| Max Cresswell (Course Coordinator) | John Matthewson |
| MY 701 463-6902 Max.Cresswell@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: t.b.a. | MY 719 4635233 ex 8642 John.Matthewson@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: t.b.a. |

Class times and locations

Lecture Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12:50 pm

Lecture Venues: Tuesdays in Cotton 122, Thursdays in Hunter 323.

There are no tutorials for this course.

Course delivery

Students are expected to attend 2 lectures per week.

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be conveyed to students in lectures, or via Blackboard.

Course Prescription

This course will consist of a survey of historical and contemporary thinkers in the western philosophical tradition. Authors to be studied will include Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Locke Berkeley, Hume, Mill, Bonjour, and Goldman. 60% internal assessment, 40% examination.

The first five weeks of the course will be taught by Professor Cresswell. This part of the course will consist of a survey of the epistemological views of selected thinkers in the western philosophical tradition. The last seven weeks of the course will be taught by Doctor Maslen. This part of the course will cover some contemporary approaches to some problems of knowledge.

Learning objectives

Students who pass the course will have:

- gained familiarity with some historical and contemporary approaches to many of the central topics of epistemology;
- strengthened their skills in argumentation, logical analysis, writing, and individual research.

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 <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/phil-overview.aspx#grad-attributes>

Expected workload

Over the course of the trimester students are expected to spend 200 hours on this course including: two and a half hours per week of lectures, preparation for lectures and the completion of assignments.

Readings

Essential texts:

PHIL 301 has a required Student Notes reader (\$33.30).

Note that Student Notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 13 February to 16 March 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 it will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order 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 requirements

60% of the total course grade is for the essays. The first essay has a word limit of 2500 words and is due in class on May 1st. The second essay has a word limit of 2500 words and is due in class on June 5th. Each essay contributes up to 30% of the total course grade.

40% of the total course grade is for a 3-hour closed-book final examination. The exact date will be set later in the trimester by the university, but it will be during examination period (between Friday 15 June to Wednesday 4 July 2012).

Notes:

THE DIFFERENCE IN ASSESSMENT BETWEEN PHIL 201 AND PHIL 301: The first essay for PHIL 201 is due earlier, worth 20% of the course grade and has a word-limit of 1000 words.

THE ESSAY TOPICS for the second essay will be handed out in class well before the due date. The essay topics for the first essay are as follows:

- Either (A) Compare, contrast and evaluate the epistemological views of any two or more of the philosophers studied in the first part of the course, i.e., Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Reid or Mill.
- Or (B) Any other topic raised in this section of the course, provided it is discussed with Professor Cresswell beforehand.

WHERE TO HAND IN YOUR ESSAY: You must submit both an electronic copy of your essay and a paper copy. Submit the paper copy of your essay in class on the due-date and an electronic copy on the BlackBoard website prior to that.

PLAGIARIZED ESSAYS (no matter what the extent of the plagiarism) will receive an automatic zero. Extreme cases may result in University academic disciplinary procedures being invoked. For more information about plagiarism, see below.

HOW TO WRITE THE ESSAY: If you get stuck in the middle, or don't know how to get started then come to see one of us during our office hours or make an appointment. We may look at rough drafts, provided enough advance notice is given. I also recommend P. Martinich, *Philosophical Writing*, Blackwell, 1996.

HOW WE MARK YOUR ESSAYS: See the handout "Assessment Criteria" on the BlackBoard website for criteria that we use in marking essays.

Penalties

Extensions on essays may be given for medical or other serious reasons. If an extension is required, please contact me as soon as possible (and before the due date unless circumstances make this impossible). If you have not obtained an extension and it is past the due date, you may still be able to hand in your essay, but one third of a letter grade (e.g. B+ → B) per day will be deducted.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements.

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.

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 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.