



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
PHIL318 Philosophy of Science**

**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

Last piece of assessment due: 8 June

Study week: 11–15 June 2012

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

Edwin Mares (course co-ordinator):

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John Matthewson

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Office Hours: Monday 1-2

Email: john.matthewson@gmail.com

Class times and locations

Lectures take place in Murphy LT102 on Monday and Friday from 11am-1pm.

Course delivery

Students are expected to attend 2 lectures per week. There are no separate tutorials. Student discussion about course material will be encouraged during lectures.

Communication of additional information

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students through announcements in lectures and on Blackboard.

Course Prescription

This course surveys the issues and positions in modern philosophy of science, beginning with a discussion of the history of philosophy of science from Logical Positivism to the present. We then discuss particular problems such as the problem of induction, the problem of scientific explanation, the debate between realists and anti-realists, and the nature of scientific laws.

Learning objectives

Students passing the course should be able to understand the main currents in 20th and 21st Century philosophy of science, construct and evaluate positions with regard to the veracity of scientific theories, and write essays concerning these topics.

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 and conceptual analysis. For more details please consult our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/phil-overview.aspx#grad-attributes>

Expected workload

Over the trimester students are expected to spend 200 hours on the course including: class contact hours, preparation for seminars and the completion of essays.

Readings

Essential texts:

PHIL318 Coursebook

Available from Student notes. Additional readings may be required. If so, they will be available on Blackboard. All undergraduate textbooks and 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 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 requirements

Three essays of approximately 2500 words. Essays topics are listed on Blackboard. Try as much as possible to avoid overlap in topics between essays. Due dates:

Essay 1: Thursday 5 April

Essay 2: Friday 18 May

Essay 3: Friday 8 June

Each essay is worth a third of the final course grade. Essays are to be handed in electronically on Blackboard.

Penalties

Late essays will be penalized by 5 points if late at all, and then 5 points per week after that. The only exceptions will be due to student illness which must be documented with a note from a doctor.

Mandatory course requirements

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- Submit at least two of the essays.

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

Except in very extreme circumstances, handwritten work is not permitted to be submitted for marks in this course.

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.