



**SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME  
PHIL 389: PRE-HONOURS SEMINAR**

**TRIMESTERS 1 AND 2, 2012**  
5 March to 18 November 2012

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 5 March to 19 October 2012

Mid-trimester breaks: 6–22 April 2012; 27 August to 7 September 2012

Mid-year break (including University study and examination period): June 9–July 15 2012

Last piece of assessment due: 15 November 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**

Stuart Brock (course co-ordinator)

MY 701

(04) 463-6970

Stuart.Brock@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours: Friday 3:00-4:00 or by appointment

**Class times and locations**

Lecture time: Wednesday 12:00–13:50

Lecture venue: AM101

**Course delivery**

This course will involve one seminar per week in the first and second trimesters. Seminars will run for one hour and 50 minutes. Students are expected to attend all seminars for the course and will be expected to read closely two or more articles for each class. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading critically. Students will also be expected to attend the staff seminar series in the second trimester.

## **Communication of additional information**

Additional information will be conveyed to students via Blackboard.

## **Course Prescription**

This course will be split into three parts. The first part will introduce students to theoretical questions about the nature of philosophy and the sub-discipline known as metaphilosophy. The second part will teach students practical skills that will enhance their ability to do research in philosophy. The third part of the course will involve students giving oral presentations about their research towards their research essay.

## **Learning objectives**

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. understand and appreciate the methods used and presuppositions assumed by philosophers in the analytic tradition, and
2. embark on an independent research project.

## **Expected workload**

PHIL389 is a full-year course. The total expected workload for students enrolled in this course is 200 hours.

## **Readings**

A full reading list (and guidance for independent research) is available on blackboard. Students will be expected to locate and access readings from the library or the library database.

## **Assessment requirements**

The assessment will be based on the following: five pop-quizzes (worth 2% each); two research essays in the form of a discussion note (worth 30% each); one revised research essay (worth 15%); and one PHIL489 Research Proposal (worth 15%).

Pop-quizzes:	10%
Two research essays (3,000 words max.):	60%
Revised research essay:	15%
489 research proposal:	15%

**POP QUIZZES:** Students will also be assessed on their performance on a series of pop quizzes. Pop quizzes will be short tests (10 minutes) taken at the beginning of class. Each quiz is designed to test the student's understanding of the assigned reading for the week. There will be at least six quizzes worth 2% each. Only the student's best five quizzes will count towards their final grade (10% in total). The quizzes are specifically designed to assess how

well students have met the first learning objective. Information about the assigned readings for each week is given on blackboard.

Students who miss just one pop-quiz will not be able to take a make-up quiz. Students who miss more than one quiz for a legitimate reason will be able to take some make-up quizzes (until they have completed five quizzes in total). Requests for a make-up quiz should be directed to the course coordinator and made at the earliest possible time after the missed quiz. If the reason is medical, a doctor's certificate must accompany the request. An excuse will count as legitimate only if it can be demonstrated that you could not reasonably have been expected to have taken the quiz at the assigned time given your circumstances. The course coordinator will decide what is reasonable in these circumstances [10%].

DISCUSSION NOTES. Students are expected to write two research essays in the form of a discussion note. Each note will count for 30% of your overall assessment and should be a maximum of 3000 words (they can be significantly shorter). Discussion notes should be based on an article published on or after April 1 2011 in an international philosophy journal. Students should choose their two articles by April 4 2012 (and have them approved by the course coordinator on or before that day). Students should submit both research essays by 12:00 midday on June 8 2012. This assessment task is designed to assess how well students have met the second course learning objective.

All research essays must be submitted in two ways. A copy of the note must first be submitted digitally via blackboard (select 'assignments' icon in the course menu). Make sure you save your file as a Microsoft Word document. The title of your file should follow the following format: last name, underscore, first name, underscore, dot, docx (for example: brock\_stuart.docx). A hard copy of the essay must then be submitted to the lecturer at the start of class on the due date or to the programme administrator, Sophia Zhao, in MY518. The hard copy will not be graded unless there is a problem with your blackboard submission. In such cases, students will be required to re-enter an identical copy to blackboard at their earliest convenience.

All research essays will be submitted to and evaluated by turnitin.com, an online plagiarism detection service, before being graded. Plagiarized work (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, see the section entitled 'Use of Turnitin' below.

Late research essays will only be accepted if the student has a legitimate excuse for failing to get it in on time. Requests for an extension should be made *before* the due date, and should be directed to the course coordinator. If the reason is medical, a doctor's certificate must accompany the request. An excuse will count as legitimate only if it can be demonstrated

that you could not reasonably have been expected to hand the note in on time given your circumstances. The course coordinator will decide what is reasonable in these circumstances. [60%]

REVISED RESEARCH ESSAY: The course coordinator will give students a grade and constructive feedback on their two research essays on or before July 18 2012. Once this feedback is received, students will be expected to nominate the essay they believe is likely to be the best after a process of continual revision. This decision should be made in consultation with the course coordinator. The nominated essay will then need to go through three stages of revision. The first set of revisions will be completed in light of the feedback given by the course coordinator. The second set of revisions will be completed in light of feedback given by the seminar participants after the student's presentation (see the details under 'Mandatory Course Requirements'). The final set of revisions will be completed in light of feedback given by professional philosophers working in a relevant area. At all three stages, students will be expected to consult closely with the course coordinator. Students should submit their final revisions on or before 12:00 midday on November 15 2012. Submission of the revised essays should be done through blackboard *and* a hard copy should also be submitted to the programme administrator, Sophia Zhao, in MY518. (The process will be the same as that followed for the original research essays.) The aim of the multiple revision process is to produce an article of publishable quality; students will be encouraged to submit their discussion notes to an appropriate journal at the same time they submit it on blackboard. [15%]

489 RESEARCH PROPOSAL: Students are expected to complete a PHIL489 research proposal by 12:00 midday on 29 October, 2012. The proposal must conform to the template available on blackboard. Students must also summarise the main thesis and arguments in five of the more important articles related to the student's topic. The summaries should be of articles that are not the target of the student's two research essays. The summaries should be between 500 and 1000 words.

Students will need to consult with the course coordinator early in the drafting process and the coordinator of graduate studies (Associate Professor Nicholas Agar) before the end of second trimester. Students are also encouraged to enrol in and attend the seminar on Research Proposals offered by Victoria's Student Learning Support Services ([http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/slss/whatweoffer/postgraduate.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/whatweoffer/postgraduate.aspx)). [15%]

### **Return of assignments**

Pop-quizzes can be collected from the course coordinator's office during his office hours. All other assessment tasks will be returned via blackboard and/or email.

## **Penalties**

Late work will not be accepted and there will be no make-up pop-quizzes for those who miss the miss one *unless the student has a legitimate excuse* (see 'assessment requirements' for more details). Students who do not give a presentation on their nominated research essay will fail the course (see 'mandatory course requirements' for more details).

## **Mandatory course requirements**

To gain a pass in PHIL389, each student must (i) get at least 6/10 overall for the pop-quizzes, and (ii) give a presentation on their nominated research essays. Students will be expected to modify their written work in response to the constructive feedback given after the presentation.

## **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>

### **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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/victoria/avcacademic).