



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
PHIL404 VALUE THEORY
TRIMESTER 1&2 2012
5 March to 17 November 2012**

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 5 March to 19 October 2012

Mid-trimester break: 6–22 April 2012

Mid-trimester break: 27 August–9 September 2012

The taught portion of all courses at 400-level will end after 18 weeks, in order to allow students time to focus on their PHIL 489 research essays. During the final six weeks of the term, it is expected that you will be working on your research essays, and staff will be available for meetings, consultations and advice.

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Lecturers

Ramon Das (course coordinator)

Office room: Murphy 608

Office phone: 463 5038

Email: ramon.das@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Tuesday 11-12

Simon Keller

Office room: Murphy 720

Office phone: 463 9638

Email: simon.keller@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Tuesdays 1-2

Dan Weijers

Office room: Murphy 715

Office phone: 463 5233, x8651

Email: dan.weijers@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Tuesday 11-12 and by appt.

Kim Sterelny

Office room: Murphy 719

Office phone: 463 5233, x8642

Email: kim.sterelny@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: By appt.

Class times and locations

Lecture time: Tuesdays 9-11

Lecture venue: KK201

Course delivery

The weekly meetings will include lecturing and discussion. There are no tutorials for this course.

Communication of additional information

There will be a course site on Blackboard, which will contain some readings and information about the course.

Course Prescription

This course examines several topics in relating to moral, political, and aesthetic value.

Course content

The first six weeks of the course will be taught by Kim Sterelny, on Philip Kitcher's book, *The Ethical Project* (Harvard University Press, 2011).

The next six weeks will be taught by Simon Keller and Dan Weijers. It will look at the nature of wellbeing, where what advances a person's wellbeing is whatever makes her better off, or advances her welfare, or serves her best interests. We will ask questions like the following. What is wellbeing? Is pleasure the only thing that matters for wellbeing? Can psychological research help us reach a better understanding of wellbeing and its sources? Is wellbeing really so valuable? What makes one theory of wellbeing better than another?

The final six weeks will be taught by Ramon Das, on Thomas Pogge's book, *Politics as Usual* (Polity Press, 2010). The book addresses several topics in the ethics of world poverty.

Learning objectives

Students passing the course should advance their knowledge of several key areas of value theory. They should also advance their abilities to undertake logical and critical thinking, especially as it pertains to value theory. They should also practice and improve their critical writing skills. Students are expected to attend classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading.

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/overview-of-the-school/phil-overview#grad-attributes>

Expected workload

The University's guideline for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the entire trimester, including time in class.

Readings**Essential texts:**

Students will need access to the two aforementioned books by Kitcher and Pogge. Other readings will be distributed or made available via 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

1. A 3000-3500 word essay on Kim's section of the course, due Monday 7 May.
 2. A 3000-3500 word essay on Dan and Simon's section of the course, due Monday 16 July.
 3. A 3000-3500 word essay on Ramon's section of the course, due Monday 15 October.
- Each essay is worth 1/3 of the final grade.

Penalties

Late essays will be penalized at the rate of 10 points per week unless prior approval is granted by the chair of graduate studies (Nick Agar and Sondra Bacharach).

Mandatory Course Requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements for this course.

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. 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.