



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME**

**PHIL 302: Ethics**

**TRIMESTER 1 2013**

**4 March – 3 July 2013**

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 4 March to 7 June 2013

Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013

Mid-trimester break: 22–28 April 2013

Study week: 10–14 June 2013

Examination/Assessment Period: 14 June to 3 July 2013

*You should 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

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Nicholas Agar  
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Email: [nicholas.agar@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nicholas.agar@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: By arrangement

Lecturer and Tutor: Felice Marshall  
Room No.: MY 812  
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Office hours: By arrangement

**Class times and locations**

Can be found on the Victoria website at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/subjects/coursecatalogue>

It is advisable to check the above for any changes to the timetable programme.

**Lecture Time:** Mon, Wed 3.10-5.00 pm

**Lecture Venue:** Hunter (HU) LT119

**Tutorial:**

For Tutorial times and venue see the website below

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/timetables/>

**Teaching/learning summary**

There will be two lectures of approximately 90 minutes each. Each week of the course will focus on a specific subtopic for which there will be an essay topic.

In addition there will be a tutorial which students will be expected to attend.

**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 seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the PHIL202/302 Blackboard site.

**Course prescription**

An examination of 20th century approaches to ethics. This course is co-taught with PHIL 202.

**Course content**

This course is an introduction to contemporary ethical theory. We begin with an examination of the three most important historical and contemporary traditions in ethical thinking - utilitarianism, Kantianism and virtue theory. We then explore meta-ethical issues. Are ethical statements claims about the natural world or are they reports of psychological dispositions? What's the relationship between ethics and evolution? The course concludes with an investigation of the ethical status of friendship and of issues connected with the boundaries of the moral community.

**Learning objectives**

Students who pass the course will:

1. have a good understanding of some of the central issues in contemporary moral philosophy
2. be able to recognize, employ and critically analyze utilitarian, Kantian and virtue ethical arguments
3. also have an appreciation of how ethical theories connect with our understanding of the natural world

**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 302 throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures and tutorials, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

### **Readings**

#### **Set texts:**

You should purchase the PHIL202/302 Course Book.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre Foyer from 11 February to 15 March 2013, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks, Easterfield Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto: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**

There will be two essays (each worth 15%), three short answer tests (the best two marks to jointly contribute 10%) and an exam (60%).

**i. Essay:** The essays should be approximately 2500-3000 words long. The first one is due April 19. The second one is due May 31. **You must submit your essays electronically via Blackboard** (please consult *Blackboard* for instructions). This electronic version will be sent to turnitin.com, an anti-plagiarism website, and is the version that will be graded. **You are not required to submit a hardcopy of your essays. [See LOs 1, 2, and 3]**

**ii. In-class tests:** The dates of the short answer tests are as follows – March 20, May 1, May 29. The tests will take up the final 30 minutes of the lecture. Their purpose is to evaluate students' awareness of the literature in the coursebook. [See LO 1]

**iii. Exam:** There will be a closed-book three hour exam for this course. The examination period for the first trimester 2013 is from 14 June – 3 July 2013. [See LOs 1, 2, and 3]

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities in assessment procedures.

## **Penalties**

Philosophy Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. For each week or part thereof of lateness, a late assignment gets a 5 point penalty, up to three weeks, after which the assignment will get a zero mark. (i.e. 1-7 days late a loss of 5%; 8-14 days late a loss of 10 %; 15-21 days late a loss of 15%, and after that a zero mark.) Extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances, but **all extensions require the student to provide documentation**. If granted an extension, students must agree to a new due date. Contact your lecturer as soon as a problem emerges. Extension forms are available in the School office.

## **Mandatory course requirements**

There are no mandatory course requirements.

## **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.

*You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the [VUWSA website](#).*

## **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>

### **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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic).

