

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
PHIL 389: Pre-honours Seminar
TRIMESTER 1 AND 2 2013
4 March to 17 November 2013

Trimester dates

Trimester dates: 4 March to 17 November 2013
Teaching dates: 4 March to 18 October 2013
Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break 1/3: 22–28 April 2013
Mid-year break: 4–14 July 2013
Mid-trimester break 2/3: 26 August to 8 September 2013
Last piece of assessment due: 18 October 2013
Study week: 21–25 October 2013

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Sondra Bacharach
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Email: sondra.bacharach@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: by appointment

Course Coordinatory: Dr Nick Agar
Room No.: MY 601
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Office hours: by appointment

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 (T1): Tue 10.00 – 11.50 am
Lecture Venue (T1): Old Kirk (OK) 406

Lecture Time (T2): Tue 10.00 – 11.50 am
Lecture Venue: (T2) Murphy (MY) 617

Teaching/learning summary

This course will involve one seminar per week in the first and second trimesters. Seminars will run for one hour and fifty minutes. Students are expected to attend all seminars for the course and will be expected to have read the assigned readings 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

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 389 Blackboard site.

Course prescription

This course will introduce students to the nature and practice of contemporary philosophy, with a considerable focus on the methodological tools of writing essays in philosophy.

Learning objectives

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Read contemporary articles in any discipline of philosophy with rigor;
2. Identify the thesis and argument of any contemporary philosophical essay
3. Develop an extended argument, in dialectical argumentative format, that addresses key, contemporary philosophical issues.

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 389 throughout the year. This includes weekly attendance at two-hour seminar, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Readings

Set texts:

The Art of Comics (2012), Roy Cook and Aaron Meskin (eds), Blackwell-Wiley Press.

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 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) Essay One (40% total), with the following components:

a) abstract (5%): Students will write a short, 200-500 word abstract sketching the position, argument or thesis their essay will address. **DUE Friday at 4pm in week 10 (week of 13 May)**

b) argument outline (10%): students will write a 1-2 page outline of the argument they plan to develop around the position, argument or thesis that their essay is considering **DUE Friday at 4pm in week of 20 May**

[week of 3 June – in class exercise]

c) Refinement of argument (5%): students will write a 1 page response to the responses, elaborations or clarifications that I suggest as ways of improving the essay. **DUE Friday at 4pm in week of 10 June** (that gives us two weeks to mark the argument outline, give them feedback, receive feedback in class, and make their responses and refinements)

d) revised abstract (5%): students will revise their abstract, including the argument that they make, and their defense. **DUE Friday at 4pm in week of 17 June**

e) The final essay: students will write the essay, as developed in the earlier assignments. The essay will be roughly 2500-3000 words. (15%) **DUE on Monday 15 July (start of trimester 2)**

2) Second Essay (40%), with the following components:

a) abstract (5%): Students will write a short, 200-500 word abstract sketching the position, argument or thesis their essay will address. **DUE Friday at 4pm in week 10 of trimester 2 (week of 30 Sept)**

b) argument outline (10%): students will write a 1-2 page outline of the argument they plan to develop around the position, argument or thesis that their essay is considering **DUE Friday at 4pm in week of 7 Oct**

[week of 14 Oct – in class exercise]

c) Refinement of argument (5%): students will write a 1 page response to the responses, elaborations or clarifications that I suggest as ways of improving the essay. **DUE Friday at 4pm in week of 21 Oct** (that gives us two weeks to mark the argument outline, give them feedback, receive feedback in class, and make their responses and refinements)

d) revised abstract (5%): students will revise their abstract, including the argument that they make, and their defense. **DUE Friday at 4pm in week of 4 Nov**

e) The final essay: students will write the essay, as developed in the earlier assignments. The essay will be roughly 2500-3000 words. (15%) **DUE on Monday 11 Nov**

2) Short weekly writing assignments (20% total):

Each week, students will be expected to write a short summary (no more than 300 words) of the article to be discussed in class. The summary will include (1) the thesis statement, and (2) the argument advanced. Each assignment is worth 1%.

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 and approval must be granted prior to the due date**. 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.

Submission of work

All written work must be submitted through Blackboard. Writing assignments must be handed into the teacher at the start of class time.

Return of marked course work

Essays and tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the School Office, Room 518, Murphy Building between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

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. 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 (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic.