TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME and POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAMME
PHIL/POLS 262: Contemporary Political Philosophy

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

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

Names and contact details
Course Coordinator: AProf Simon Keller
Room No.:   MY 720
Email: simon.keller@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Mondays, 9.30 - 11.30 am

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 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Lecture Venue: Hugh Mackenzie (HM)LT105

Teaching/learning summary
The bi-weekly meetings will include some lecturing, plus discussion, informal group
assignments, and time for questions. There are no tutorials for this course.

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 PHIL/POLS 262 Blackboard site.

Course prescription
This course examines major positions and issues in contemporary political and moral philosophy, including liberalism, libertarianism, socialism, communitarianism and feminism. Some of the philosophers we read include John Rawls, Robert Nozick, Isaiah Berlin, and Susan Okin.

Learning objectives
Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Identify and explicate the major positions in contemporary political philosophy, and apply the analytical methods of political philosophy to practical political problems.
2. Formulate and defend their own views about the moral issues that arise in politics, using rigorous and well-informed arguments.
3. Advance their abilities to undertake logical and critical thinking, conceptual analysis, and rational and ethical decision-making.
4. 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 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/POLS 262 throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Readings
Set texts:
Students must purchase the PHIL/POLS 262 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 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.

Recommended reading:

Extra reading is not necessary. The following two books provide helpful backgrounds to many of the topics on the course, and may be worth consulting.

Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy* 2nd Ed. (Oxford University Press, 2002).

Adam Swift, *Political Philosophy* (Cambridge: Polity, 2006).

Assessment requirements

1. Two 1000 word essays. The first is due on Wednesday 27 March, and the second is due on Wednesday 8 May. Each of these two essays is worth 15% of the final grade. [LO 1-4]
2. A 2500 word essay, due on Wednesday 5 June, worth 30% of the final grade. Topics will be distributed on Wednesday 9 May. [LO 1-4]
3. A three-hour closed-book final examination, to be scheduled during the examination period, worth 30% of the final grade. The examination period for the first trimester 2013 is from 14 June – 3 July 2013. [LO 1-4]
4. Class participation, measured through regular, informed, constructive contributions to class discussion, worth 10% of the final grade. [LO 1-3]

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.

Submission of work

All written work must be submitted in hard copy in class, or to Simon Keller's mailbox in PHIL/POLS 262 by 4.00 pm on the due date. Written work must also be submitted electronically to the PHIL/POLS 262 site on Blackboard. All written work must use double-spaced 12-point text, and must include page numbers.

Return of marked course work

Essays 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.

Statement on legibility
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

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.