



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME PHIL 106: Contemporary Ethical issues 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2013

Important dates

Trimester dates: 15 July to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 15 July to 18 October 2013

Mid-trimester break: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Study period: 21–25 October 2013

Examination/Assessment Period: 25 October to 16 November 2013

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12:00–12:50 pm.

Lecture Venue: Maclaurin Lecture Theatre 103 (MCLT103).

Tutorials: Tutorials will commence in the *second* week of the course. Please use S-Cubed to register for a tutorial. The tutorial times and locations are below.

M	14.10–15.00	KK 203
M	14.10–15.00	MY 103
M	15.10–16.00	MY 103
T	10.00–10.50	KK 202
T	13.10–14.00	MY 301
W	11.00–11.50	KK 203
W	11.00–11.50	MY 103
W	14.10–15.00	KK 106

W	14.10–15.00	KK 204
W	14.10–15.00	MY 632
W	15.10–16.00	MY 632
R	10.00–10.50	MY 301
R	13.10–14.00	KK 202
R	13.10–14.00	MY 617
F	10.00–10.50	KK 202
F	12.00–12.50	MY 103

Using S-Cubed:

Use your internet browser to go to: <https://signups.vuw.ac.nz>. Use your normal *student login* and *password* to sign into S-Cubed. Click on “PHIL 106” You will see info about your course and about the different tutorial sessions. Sign up to your preferred session by clicking on the “*sign up*” button. Please note: If you do not sign up during the first week of trimester, you may be extremely limited in your choice of tutorial time. The sign-up programme is only available for a limited time. If you have problems please see the School Administrator, Murphy Bldg, 5th Floor, MY518.

Names and contact details

Lecturers:

Course Coordinator: Dr Dan Weijers
 Room No: MY715
 Phone: 463 6664
 Email: dan.weijers@vuw.ac.nz
 Office hours: Wednesdays 13.10–14.00 or by arrangement

Lecturer: A/Prof Nicholas Agar
 Room No: MY601
 Email: nicholas.agar@vuw.ac.nz
 Phone: 04 463 5046
 Office hours: By arrangement

Lecturer: Prof Edwin Mares
 Room No: MY618
 Email: edwin.mares@vuw.ac.nz
 Phone: 04 463 5234
 Office hours: By arrangement

Tutors:

Tutor: Simon Bunckenberg
 Room No: MY712
 Email: simon.bunckenburg@gmail.com
 Office hours: Thursdays 11.00–11.50

Tutor: Felice Marshall
 Room No: MY812

Email: felice.marshall@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: By arrangement

Tutor: Duncan Martin

Room No: MY812

Email: duncan.martin@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Thursdays 11.00–11.50 or by arrangement

Tutor: Vanessa Schouten

Room No: MY704

Email: v.j.schouten@gmail.com

Office hours: By arrangement

Tutor: Morgan Wisheart

Room No: MY704

Email: pundemic@gmail.com

Office hours: Wednesdays 13.10–14.00

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 course Blackboard site.

Prescription

An introduction to issues in applied ethics. Topics may include: the morality of the death penalty, war, cloning, abortion and euthanasia, and the moral status of non-human animals. 50% internal assessment, 50% examination.

Course content

Weeks 1-4: Dan Weijers will lecture on: introduction to contemporary ethical issues, the ethics of advertising, and climate ethics.

Weeks 5-7: Edwin Mares will lecture on: animal rights and environmental ethics.

Weeks 8-12: Nicholas Agar will lecture on: cloning and genetic enhancement, the death penalty, and the ethics of war.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate a broad introductory-level knowledge of some of the central philosophical issues in the topics covered in the course.
- 2) Demonstrate an ability to critically analyse some of the central philosophical issues in the topics covered in the course.

Teaching format

PHIL 106 will involve three 50-minute lectures and one 50-minute tutorial per week. The presumption is that each student will attend all classes (so if information is given in lectures or tutorials, we will assume that all students have it).

Mandatory course requirements

Other than achieving an overall pass mark of 50% there are no mandatory course requirements.

Workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course 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.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item – PHIL 106		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	50-minute in-class test (1 essay question)	15%	1 & 2	12:00–12:50 pm Wednesday 7 August
2	2,000 word essay	35%	1 & 2	5:00pm Friday 20 September
3	3-hour final exam (4 essay questions)	50%	1 & 2	TBA (25 October–16 November)

Submission and return of work

Tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their marked test 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.

Essays should be submitted through Blackboard with a completed cover sheet (available on Blackboard). Grades and feedback on essays will be available online through Blackboard.

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 **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.

Set texts

There is no textbook or course packet for PHIL106. Readings will be assigned every week, all of which will be posted on Blackboard. They can be accessed under 'Course Materials.'

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected during the first lecture of the course. The contact details of the class representative will be posted on Blackboard during the first week of the course.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Graduate attributes: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/phil-overview#grad-attributes>
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz