



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME

**PHIL 209/309: Special Topic: Non-Western Philosophy
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, Friday, 1:10 – 3.00 pm

Lecture Venue: Easterfield (EA)LT 206

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Jay Shaw

Room No: Murphy (MY) 613

Phone: 463-8936

Email: jay.shaw@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Monday and Friday 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

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 209/309 Blackboard site.

Prescription

This course will focus on some of the distinctive features of Indian and Chinese Philosophy, including Buddhism and Confucianism. A comparison with Māori and Pacific notions of self, nature and values may also be made. Other non-Western views may also be considered, e.g. Tibetan or African.

Course content

The course aims to introduce students not only to the specific arguments of Indian and Chinese philosophers on topic such as causality, suffering, values, harmony and freedom of human being, but also to questions and contemporary issues relevant to philosophy in general. The course will also emphasise some of the distinctive features of Asian and Māori philosophy such as the goals of life and our duties towards other beings. See separate hand-out entitled 'Reading List and Course Outline'.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Be familiar with some of the systems of Indian, Chinese and Māori philosophy
2. Be aware of their metaphysical and ethical positions;
3. Compare and contrast the arguments of philosophers from different standpoints

Teaching format

This course will involve two two-hour lectures per week. There are no tutorials for this course. Students are expected to attend classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading.

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, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Assessment

200-level:

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 One essay (3000 words)	40%	1, 2	20 Sept
2 One three hour examination	60%	3	

300-level:

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 One essay (3000 words)	30%	1, 2	20 September
2 One essay (3000 words)	30%	1, 2	18 October
3 One three hour examination	40%	3	

Overlaps between exam and essay topics are to be avoided. Each essay may not exceed 3,000 words.

The essay[s] will emphasise both the critical thinking and the in-depth research of the students on some of the topics discussed in class. The final examination will focus on the comprehension or understanding of the subject, as the students will be answering several questions. Hence it will supplement the in-depth research of the students.

Essay Topics:

1. The Nature of human beings.
2. Types of Suffering.
3. Buddhism on Self
4. Buddhism on Momentariness.
5. Concepts of Harmony.
6. Righteous actions.
7. Freedom
8. Confucian ethics
9. The Nature of a gentleperson
10. Maori Values

Group work

There is no group work for this course.

Submission and return of work

All final essays are to be submitted digitally in Blackboard.

Directions for submission via Blackboard:

- (1) click on the 'Assignments' icon in the course menu (to the left of the page).
- (2) select 'View/Complete Assignment' for the relevant assignment.
- (3) click the 'Browse' icon, and then select your essay.
- (4) then click 'Submit'.

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.

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

PHIL 209/309 Book of Readings available from vicbooks.

Recommended reading

See separate handout entitled 'Reading List and Course Outline'.

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 at the first lecture of the course

Student feedback

There have been no changes to the course since last taught. 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/avcadademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcadademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/vicliffe/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/vicliffe/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