



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME  
PHIL 361: ETHICS AND POLITICS: BIOETHICS  
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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

**Class times and locations**

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 - 10:50

Lecture Venue: Easterfield 206 (EALT206)

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Nick Agar  
Room No: MY 601  
Email: [nicholas.agar@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nicholas.agar@vuw.ac.nz)  
Phone: x 5046  
Office hours: by arrangement

Other teaching staff: Dan Weijers  
Room No: MY 715  
Email: [dan.weijers@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:dan.weijers@vuw.ac.nz)  
Phone: x 6664  
Office hours: Wednesday 13:10 – 15:00

Other teaching staff: Emma Wood  
 Room No: MY 717  
 Email: emmawood85@gmail.com  
 Phone: 021 481 446  
 Office hours: by arrangement

## 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 posted on the course Blackboard site.

## Prescription

This course will introduce students to some central questions in bioethics. Topics covered include assisted reproduction, severely disabled newborns, euthanasia, and informed consent.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass the course will be able to:

1. acquire a good understanding of some of the central issues in bioethics;
2. carefully consider a range of moral dilemmas concerning how human beings come into existence, how they live their lives, and how their lives end.

## Teaching format

The two-hour bi-weekly meetings will include some lecturing, plus discussion, informal group assignments, and time for questions. 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

	Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One essay (2500 - 3000 words) <b>You must submit your essay electronically via Blackboard</b> (please consult <i>Blackboard</i> for instructions). <b>This electronic version will be sent to turnitin.com, an anti-plagiarism website, and is the version that will be graded. It is not necessary to submit a hardcopy.</b>	25%	1, 2	13 August
2	Three short answer tests. The tests will take up the final hour of the lecture. Their purpose is to evaluate students' general awareness of the	The best two marks to jointly	1, 2	1 August, 22 August and 3 October

	literature in the text.	contribute 10%		
3	One essay (2500 - 3000 words). See essay 1 above for instructions.	25%	1, 2	11 October
4	Three hour, closed book exam. You should answer any three questions – the exam will <b>not</b> be divided into sections. You should avoid overlap between exam answers and work submitted during the course.	40%	1, 2	TBA - during Examination Period 25 October to 16 November

## Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted through Blackboard. You should not submit hardcopies of your essays.

## 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

You should purchase Helga Kuhse and Peter Singer (eds), *Bioethics: An Anthology: Second Edition* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006) from vicbooks. Information about vicbooks is available at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz)

## 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 this course since last taught. Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)

- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)