



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME PHIL 264: Ethics and International Affairs 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 1 July 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Last assessment item due: 15 June 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Tues, Thurs, Fri. 12:00-12:50 pm

Venue: **Tues:** Hugh Mackenzie (HM)LT002; **Thurs, Fri:** Cotton (CO)LT122

There are no tutorials for this course.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Ramon Das

Room No: MY 608

Phone: 463 5038

Email: ramon.das@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Mon. and Thurs. 9:30-10:30 and by appointment

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 examine some important topics that lie at the interaction of moral philosophy and international relations, including war and just-war theory, humanitarian aid and intervention, and nationalism and state-hood.

Course content

See *Schedule of Readings* on Blackboard for a complete list of topics and readings for the course. Students are responsible for completing the required readings ahead of the week in which they are discussed.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. demonstrate an in depth understanding of a variety of debates in the field of ethics and international affairs
2. critically evaluate a variety of arguments in the field of ethics and international affairs using established methods of formal or informal logic
3. analyse or elucidate complex ideas and concepts in the field of international affairs.

Teaching format

PHIL 264 is taught in three 50-minute lectures per week.

Mandatory course requirements

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

Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been designed on the assumption that students will devote approximately 200 hours to it throughout the trimester. This is an average of 13 hours per week across the trimester. This includes attendance at 3 lectures each week. The remainder of your time will need to be shared between reading preparation and making progress on assignments.

Things to consider when planning your time:

Reading preparation involves careful reading of set texts for meaning and argument, as well as note-taking and preparation of responses to discussion questions. As you become more skilled throughout the trimester, this may take fewer hours each week but in the first instance 1 hour per reading is worth 'budgeting' for.

Essays and other written assignments may require enough time for location, retrieval and reading of a range of sources. Note-taking, planning, drafting and editing the draft will all be necessary before writing up a final version.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2 out of a possible 3 x 15-min surprise in-class tests (10% each)	20%	2,3	TBA
2	1 essay (approx. 2,500 words)	30%	1,2,3	15 May
3	1 Take-home final test	50%	1,2,3	15 June

PHIL 264 is assessed on the basis of three surprise tests, one essay, and one take-home final test:

- a) *Surprise tests*: There are three surprise tests, to be given in class. Of these, the highest two scores will count (10% each) toward your final grade. Each test comprises three short answer questions and will last 15 minutes. The tests are meant to provide an incentive to complete the readings. They will test *only your comprehension of* –not your ability to evaluate – the **required** readings *for the week in which the text falls*. Any reading for that week *may* (but not necessarily will) be tested. What this means is that *you should complete all of the readings for each week before the start of the first class on Monday*. The *Schedule of Readings*, including all required and recommended readings, is posted on Blackboard. **Please note that there are no make-up tests.**
- b) *Essay*: The essay is worth 30% of your overall final grade, and is due at 5:00pm, Friday 15 May. The essay is designed to test your ability to critically analyse one of the key issues discussed in class. The essay should be approximately 2,500 words. It must be submitted electronically to Blackboard; a hard copy is not required. The essay topics are available on the assignments page of Blackboard. **No essays will be accepted after 5 June at 5pm.**
- c) *Take-home final test*: The take-home final test, worth 50% of the final grade, comprises two questions drawn from material covered during the last four weeks of lectures. Each question should be answered with a short essay of approximately 1500 words. **The final test will be posted on Blackboard at 5pm on Friday 5 June. It must be submitted electronically to Blackboard no later than 11:59pm, Sunday 14 June. Please note that no late tests will be accepted.** If for any reason you are unable to submit your test onto Blackboard, then you must email your test to me as an attachment, in Word format (no zipped or compressed files, please) by the due date: ramon.das@vuw.ac.nz .

The essay and final test will be evaluated against the following five criteria:

1. directness and clarity in answering the question
2. support of answer with relevant and reasoned argument
3. knowledge of relevant material presented in readings and lectures
4. consideration of alternative viewpoints and arguments
5. quality of writing.

Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted electronically through Blackboard, together with completed cover sheet available on Blackboard. Marked essays will be available on Blackboard to students no later than 5 June at 5pm.

Extensions

Late submission of **assignments** will **not be accepted** unless the student makes an appointment as soon as practically possible with the course coordinator to explain the lateness (preferably before the assignment is due to be submitted). The circumstances under which an extension will be considered are outlined in section 3.2.1 of the Assessment Handbook.

(See: www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf).

There will be no make-ups of surprise tests for any reason.

Penalties

Late essays without prior extension will be penalised at the rate of one full letter grade per week. **No essays will be accepted after 5 June 2015. No final tests will be accepted after 15 June 2015.**

Set texts

Please refer to the Schedule of Readings on Blackboard for a list of all required and recommended readings. All readings will be available on Blackboard, including links to e-books in the VUW Library.

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. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz