



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

#### PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME PHIL 331: Language and the World 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:** 4 June 2015

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

#### Class times and locations

Lectures: Thursday 9:00-10:50, Friday 9:00-10:00

Venue: Thursday Easterfield (EA)LT206, Friday Laby (LB)LT118

Tutorials: Friday 10:00-10:50, in the lecture room

#### Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Edwin Mares  
Room No: Murphy MY618  
Phone: 04 463 5234  
Email: [edwin.mares@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:edwin.mares@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: 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 advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

## Prescription

This course examines the conceptual development of the theories of meaning and reference to the present. We discuss the problem of interpreting what others say and the role of context in the understanding of language.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing the course should/will be able to:

1. explain in outline at least two of the central debates in contemporary philosophy of language;
2. give in outline the central history of philosophy of language in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century;
3. understand and explain the central arguments concerning the nature of language (such as the argument concerning the way in which names refer to things, the nature of metaphysics, and whether we have innate knowledge about the structure of language);
4. apply what the student has learned in the course to everyday uses of language and related issues.

## Teaching format

**PHIL 318** is delivered as one 2 hour lecture and one 50 minute lecture per week and a 50-minute tutorial/seminar per week.

**Lectures:** The lectures are a core foundation for learning. They present the central course material.

**Tutorials:** The tutorials reinforce the lecture experience. They give students an additional chance to ask questions and to formulate their views on course material.

## Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements in addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%.

## Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester, approximately 13 hours a week across the trimester. This total includes the following:

- weekly attendance at lectures, and tutorials; (4 hours)
- completion of all set weekly readings for tutorials; (6 hours)
- research and writing for assessment tasks. (3 hours)

## Assessment

Assessment for this course is based entirely on three essays. Each essay is to be between 2,500 and 3,000 words.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay 1 (2,500-3,000 words)	33%	1,2,3,4	2 April
2	Essay 2 (2,500-3,000 words)	33%	1,2,3,4	7 May
3	Essay 3 (2,500-3,000 words)	34%	1,2,3,4	4 June

## Submission and return of work

**All assignments are due before midnight on the due date.**

**Submission:** All work submitted for assessment must be submitted electronically on Blackboard. All essays will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin.com. No hard copies will be returned. All comments will be provided electronically via Blackboard.

## Extensions and penalties

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

### Penalties

Philosophy Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. Late essays submitted without extensions having been obtained will receive a penalty of 5 points per day (or part thereof) late. No assignment will be accepted after 12 June 2015.

### Set texts

There are no set texts. All the course readings will be available on Blackboard.

### Recommended reading

Recommended readings will also be provided on the Blackboard site.

### 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](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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/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/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)

- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://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](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)