



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME PHIL 104: MINDS, BRAINS AND PERSONS 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Study period: 19–23 October 2015

Examination/Assessment Period: 23 October to 14 November 2015

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/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:

Stream 1: Mon 12-12.50, Maclaurin MCLT103
Thurs 12-12.50, Maclaurin MCLT101
Fri 12-12.50, Maclaurin MCLT103

Stream 2: Mon 10-10.50, New Kirk KKLT301
Thurs 10-10.50, Hugh Mackenzie HMLT002
Fri 10-10.50, New Kirk KKLT301

Tutorials:

You will attend one tutorial a week. Please see the Academic Timetable 2015

www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Simon Keller
Room No: MY 720
Phone: x9638
Email: Simon.Keller@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Tues 10-11 and Fri 9-10

Lecturer: Justin Sytsma
Room No: MY 710
Email: Justin.Sytsma@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 is an introduction to philosophical questions about the nature of minds and how they relate to brains and persons. Topics may include: What is consciousness? What can science tell us about the mind? What is a person? In virtue of what do persons persist over time?

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. explain the fundamental ethical principles that govern good scholarship in philosophy
2. explain some of the current debates in the fields of metaphysics and epistemology
3. evaluate a variety of arguments using established methods of formal or informal logic
4. an ability to define clearly and precisely key concepts in the fields of metaphysics and epistemology.

Teaching format

PHIL 104 is taught in three 50-minute lectures per week and one 50-minute tutorial per week. A schedule of readings and topics will be provided separately and posted on Blackboard.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements, apart from receiving an overall grade of at least 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 per week across the trimester. This includes attendance at 36 lectures and a tutorial each week. The remainder of your time will need to be shared between tutorial preparation and making progress on assignments.

Things to consider when planning your time:

- Tutorial preparation involves careful reading of set texts for meaning and argument, as well as note-taking and preparation of responses to topics raised in the readings and lectures.
- 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	%	CLO(s)	Due date/assessment date
1 In-class test	15%	2, 3, 4	Mon 3 August, during lecture times
2 Tutorial exercises. 7 will be assigned during the term, and your performance on your best 5 will count towards this part of your grade. No make-ups will be given.	15%	1,2,3,4	During tutorial times, across the term
2 2000 word essay	35%	1, 2, 3, 4	Mon 25 September, 12.00 pm
3 Examination, 2 hours	35%	2, 3, 4	During university examination period, 23 October to 14 November 2015

Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted electronically through Blackboard. Use the “essay submission” link. When marked, essays will be returned to you either in hard copy in tutorials or electronically through Blackboard.

We reserve the right to ask for an electronic copy of any assessable work for checking in Turnitin.com (see www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin).

Graded essays in hard copy that are not collected in tutorials will be placed in the School Office, MY 518, where they can be collected between the hours of 2.00-3.00 pm, Monday to Friday. We will notify students via Blackboard when graded essays are available (generally between 2-3 weeks after the date submitted).

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).

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 30 October.

Set texts

All readings will be made available on the Blackboard site in electronic form.

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

In response to the feedback of previous students, the course will include tutorial exercises, and will include longer sections on mental illness and free will. 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