



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME

PHIL 325: METAPHYSICS

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

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: Tuesdays 9.00 - 10:50 in Murphy (MY)LT101
Wednesdays 10.00 - 11:50 Maclaurin (MC)LT101

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Cei Maslen
Room No: MY 707
Phone: 463 6524
Email: Cei.Maslen@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Thursdays 1.00 – 2.00 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 course Blackboard site.

Prescription

An introduction to some central problems in metaphysics, focusing on issues in the philosophy of time.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. integrate disciplinary knowledge and skills developed at 200-level in the field of metaphysics.
2. articulate original and useful philosophical theses or provide original arguments in support of contentious philosophical theses.
3. engage in original and ethical research in philosophy under close supervision.

Teaching format

PHIL 325 is taught in two 2-hour lectures per week. A Lecture Programme will be available on Blackboard.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements (except for achieving an overall pass mark of 50%).

Workload

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 14 hours per week across the 14 weeks of trimester. This includes attendance at 2 lectures each week. The remainder of your time will need to be shared between lecture preparation and making progress on assignments.

Things to consider when planning your time:

- 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 Essay 1 (around 2,500 words)	30%	1, 2, 3	9 September, 10.00 am
2 Essay 2 (around 2,500 words)	30%	1, 2, 3	30 September, 10.00 am
3 Six in-class quizzes (each 20 minutes)	40%	1	tba.

(a) Two essays

WHERE TO HAND IN YOUR ESSAYS: You must submit your essay electronically via *Blackboard*. Please consult *Blackboard* for instructions). This electronic version may be sent to turnitin.com, an anti-plagiarism website, and is the version that will be graded. However, as a back-up you must also submit a paper copy of your essay to the Course Coordinator in class or to the School office (MY 518), prior to the due-date.

ESSAY TOPICS: students may formulate their own essay topics; sample topics will be handed out in class at least 2 weeks prior to the due date.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR ESSAYS: Students are expected to do some original research by identifying and engaging with relevant papers located through PhilPapers, Philosopher's Index or Google Scholar. If you get stuck, or don't know how to begin then come to see the Course Co-ordinator in her office hours or make an appointment to meet with her at your convenience. You may request comments on a draft, provided some advance notice is given. See the handout "Assessment criteria" (at the front of your course reader) for general advice on writing a philosophy paper. Model papers written by previous students are also available on request. I highly recommend P. Martinich, *Philosophical Writing*, Blackwell, 1996.

HOW I MARK YOUR ESSAYS: See the handout "Assessment Criteria..." (at the front of your course reader) for a statement of the criteria that we use in marking essays.

(b) In-class quizzes, together worth 40% of total course marks.

These are short-answer tests, taking the first 20 minutes of class time. There will be six quizzes, but only your best five quiz marks will count towards your final mark. The quizzes will be on material from the previous lectures and you will be given review questions in advance.

Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted in hard copy through the School Office essay drop-off point, Murphy Building (MY518) and electronically through Blackboard, together with completed cover sheet available on Blackboard or from the office by 1pm.

When marked, quizzes will initially be returned to you in lectures. Uncollected marked essays and quizzes will be available from the School Office Murphy (MY518), between 2.00 - 3.00 pm Monday-Friday.

Extensions and penalties

Make-up quizzes will not be given, although the lowest quiz grade will be dropped for each student. Late submission of essays will not get a grade higher than a C- unless the student makes an appointment as soon as practically possible with the course coordinator to explain the lateness (preferably before the essay 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).

Set texts

- Robin Le Poidevin, *Travels in Four Dimensions: The Enigmas of Space and Time*, Oxford University Press, 2003. Available from VicBooks, www.vicbooks.co.nz
- Readings available on course BlackBoard website

Recommended reading

See separate class handout for the schedule of assigned readings.

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, include changes to the course readings, and changes in the organisation of the course and assessment (the final exam was eliminated, and a second essay was added).

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: 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