

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME**

**PHIL 373: Experimental Philosophy**

**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

**Last assessment item due:** 30 October 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: Tuesday, Friday 2:10pm to 4:00pm

Venue: Tuesday: EALT 206  
Friday: HMLT 103

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Dr Justin Sytsma

Room No: MY710

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/or posted on the course Blackboard site.

## Prescription

This course will survey and critique the new and emerging field of experimental philosophy. This will include looking at some of the ways in which empirical methods have been brought to bear on philosophical questions in areas such as epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, and ethics.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the field of experimental philosophy.
2. Exhibit detailed knowledge of the construction of empirical studies relevant to philosophical questions.
3. Undertake in-depth logical and critical thinking, especially as it pertains to experimental philosophy.

## Teaching format

This course will involve two two-hour lectures per week. 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 obtaining an overall pass mark there are no mandatory course requirements.

## 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. An approximate indication of the hours to be spent on each component of the course is as follows:

Preparation and attendance at classes:	120 hours
Essay 1:	40 hours
Essay 2:	40 hours

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 2,500 word essay	40%	1, 3	Friday 11 September, 5:00pm
2 2,500 word essay laying out and motivating an empirical study that could be conducted to help illuminate a philosophical issue	40%	2, 3	Friday 30 October, 5:00pm
3 Six pop quizzes (worth 4% each, dropping lowest score); quizzes will be given during lecture and will take approximately five to ten minutes to complete; no make-up quizzes will be given	20%	1	N/A

## Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted electronically through Blackboard. Indicative grades and comments will be posted on Blackboard.

## Extensions and penalties

Make-up quizzes will not be given, although the lowest quiz grade will be dropped for each student. For essays, late submissions 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 assessment task 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: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>).

## Set text

All required readings will be made available on Blackboard.

## 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

This course was last taught under the Special Topic code, PHIL 310. Numeric feedback from a previous cohort of students for this class was positive. In response to student comments, the lecture component of this course has been increased, as has the utilization of PowerPoint slides. Further, an additional section has been added to the course discussing techniques for applying empirical methods to philosophical problems.

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)