



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
PHIL 441 METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLOGY
15 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 1 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Study period: 6–9 June 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 10–29 June 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Seminars: Wednesdays 11-12:50 in Murphy MY617

Tutorials

There are no tutorials for this course.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Cei Maslen

Room No: MY 707

Phone: 463 6524

Email: Cei.Maslen@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 in teaching weeks, 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 advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the Course Blackboard site.

Course prescription

This course considers questions about the fundamental nature of reality and what we can know and justifiably believe about it.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. understand and appreciate the current state of research and knowledge in a variety of fields within analytic philosophy,
2. properly evaluate current and future research within those fields, and
3. under supervision, embark on a research project within those fields.

Graduate attributes

As with all Philosophy courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific attributes in the areas of logical and critical thinking, conceptual analysis and rational and ethical decision-making. For more details please consult our website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/phil-overview#grad-attributes

Teaching format

This course will involve one seminar per week in the first trimester. Seminars will run for one hour and 50 minutes.

Workload

In accordance with University guidelines, students will nominally devote 150 hours to the course throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures revision for and completion of all set assessment tasks. The University's Assessment Handbook stipulates that course outlines should "specify the average time that is notionally assigned to the completion of each assessment task." A notional assignment of completion times appears below (which excludes the times required for attendance at seminars, reading for class and preparation for presentations):

Essay: 75 hours.

Assessment: One essay, of approximately 5000 words. Opportunity will be given to submit a draft and receive feedback.

Assessment Item	Weighting	CLOs	Due Date
Essay	100%	1, 2, 3	June 13th

The essay will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. succinctness, clarity and precision of expression,
2. originality of thesis,
3. soundness of argument,
4. understanding and survey of related literature.

Submission and return of work

All essays must be submitted in two ways. A copy of the essay must first be submitted digitally via blackboard. Make sure you save your file as a Microsoft Word document. The title of your file

should follow the following format: last name, underscore, first name, underscore, essay number, dot, docx (for example: smith_john_5.docx). A hard copy of the essay must then be submitted to one of the school administrators located in MY518. Indicative grades and comments will be posted on blackboard.

Please ensure that all essays have page numbers.

Essays and tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the Office, Murphy Room 518, between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

Extensions and Penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks 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 texts

A full reading list will be given to students at the first class, and posted on the Honours 2016 Blackboard website. Students will also be expected to do some additional research using the Philosophers Index (library database).

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. Contact details for the class representative will be made available on blackboard.

Student feedback

PHIL 441 is a new course, and has not been evaluated before. It will be evaluated this year.

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