



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME  
**PHIL 442: LANGUAGE AND MIND**  
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

**Last assessment item due:** 13 June 2016

**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 it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

### Class times and locations

Monday 2:10-4:00pm          Murphy 617

### Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Justin Sytsma  
Room No:                  Murphy 710  
Email:                      justin.sytsma@vuw.ac.nz  
Office hours:              By appointment

Lecturer:                  Edwin Mares  
Room No:                  Murphy 618  
Email:                      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 tutorial programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and/or posted on the course Blackboard site.

## Prescription

This course considers questions about how our thoughts and language can represent the world.

## Course Content

This course is broken into two six-week halves. In the first half Justin Sytsma will be teaching on Ludwig Wittgenstein, focusing on his *Philosophical Investigations*. In the second half Edwin Mares will be teaching on W. V. O. Quine, focusing on “Two Dogmas of Empiricism” and *Word and Object*. Readings will be available online or through Blackboard.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. integrate knowledge and skills developed at undergraduate level in the field of the philosophy of language and mind;
2. provide extended and original arguments in support of contentious philosophical theses;
3. engage in original research in philosophy under close supervision.

## Teaching format

This course will involve one seminar per week during teaching time. Seminars will run for one hour and fifty minutes. The weekly meetings will include lecturing and discussion. Students are expected to attend all classes, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading.

## Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, course design assumes students will devote 150 hours to the course throughout the trimester. The 150 hour total includes weekly attendance at lecture, completion of weekly readings, and research and writing for set assessment tasks. Estimates of completion times appear below, excluding the times required for preparation for and attendance of seminars: Essay 1, 40 Hours; Essay 2, 40 Hours

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay 1, 2500 words on material from Justin's section	50%	1, 2, 3	1 May, 5:00pm
2	Essay 2, 2500 words on material from Ed's section	50%	1, 2, 3	13 June, 5:00pm

PHIL 442 is assessed on the basis of two essays. Each essay is worth 1/2 of the final grade.

These essays will assess your knowledge of the material covered in class and in readings, your capacity to select and develop a viable writing project, your ability to undertake independent research and develop independent ideas, and your skills at critically analysing philosophical arguments relevant to your chosen topics.

## Submission and return of work

All essays must be submitted digitally via Blackboard. Make sure you save your file as a Microsoft Word document. The title of your file should have the following format: last name, underscore, first name, underscore, essay number, dot, doc/docx (for example: smith\_john\_1.docx). Please also ensure that pages are numbered. Indicative grades and comments will be posted on Blackboard.

## 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>).

## Student feedback

No formal student feedback has been sought in previous years.

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)
- 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)
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf)
- 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)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- 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)