



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
PHIL 201: KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY
20 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Study period: 17–20 October 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 21 October to 12 November 2016

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 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

Lectures: Tuesdays 10-11:50, Hugh Mackenzie HMLT 103

Thursdays 10:00-11:50, Laby LBLT118

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Cei Maslen

Room No: MY 707

Phone: x 6524

Email: Cei.Maslen@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 in teaching weeks, and by appointment.

Lecturer: Sondra Bacharach

Room No: MY 613

Phone: x 5178

Email: Sondra.Bacharach@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: t.b.a.

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 posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

This course will consist of a survey of contemporary metaphysics (reality) and epistemology (the theory of knowledge). Questions to be discussed may include: What is knowledge? How are beliefs justified? When should we believe something on the basis of testimony from others? What is the nature of space and time? What are possible worlds?

Course learning objectives (CLOs):

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. demonstrate an in-depth understanding of a variety of debates in the field of epistemology
2. critically evaluate a variety of arguments in the field of epistemology using established methods of formal or informal logic
3. analyze or elucidate complex ideas and concepts in the field of epistemology

Teaching format

PHIL 201 is taught in two 2-hour lectures per week. A Lecture Programme will be available on Blackboard. There are no tutorials for this course.

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 (2,500 words)	30%	1, 2, 3	Thursday 22 September, 10.00 am
2 Six in-class quizzes	30%	1, 2, 3	tba
3 Final Exam	40%	1, 2, 3	tba (during examination period: from 21 October – 12 November)

(1) Essay

WHERE TO HAND IN YOUR ESSAY: 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: Essay topics will be handed out in class at least 3 weeks prior to the due date.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR ESSAY: 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 WE MARK YOUR ESSAY: See the handout "Assessment Criteria..." (on the course BlackBoard website) for a statement of the criteria that is used in marking essays.

(2) In-class quizzes

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.

(3) Final Examination

This is a 3-hour closed-book examination. The exact date will be set later in the trimester by the university, but it will be during examination period (21 October to 12 November 2016).

Submission and return of work

Submission: All work submitted for assessment must be dropped off in HARD COPY at the School Office (MY518) in the slots provided with an essay cover sheet. You must ADD the name of your tutor and the course code. 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 will be returned to you during lectures in the first instance, and then returned to 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

Make-up quizzes will not be given, although the lowest quiz grade will be dropped for each student.

There is no guarantee that late work will be accepted for assessment, and if it is accepted, there may be penalties. Where work is not submitted on time, students should make an appointment as soon as possible with the course coordinator, Cei Maslen, to explain the lateness (preferably before the assignment is due to be submitted). If granted an extension, students are required to agree to a new assessment due date.

For this course, the penalties for lateness (without an extension) are as follows: a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Work that is more than 8 days late (without an extension) will not be marked.

Set texts

The readings for the course will be made available on BlackBoard.

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.

Student feedback

Based on student feedback from 2015, we are planning to give more prompt feedback and comments on written work, and to make the organization of the course clearer to students.

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
- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at 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
- 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
- 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
- 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