



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME**

**PHIL 325: METAPHYSICS**

**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

**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 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

**Class times and locations**

Lectures:       Thursdays, 14:10-16:00 in Hunter HULT119

                  Fridays, 14:10 - 16:00 in Hunter HULT220

**Tutorials**

There are no tutorials for this course.

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Cei Maslen

Room No: MY 707

Phone: x 6524

Email: [Cei.Maslen@vuw.ac.nz](mailto: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 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.

## 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, 2pm
2   Essay 2 (around 2,500 words)	30%	1, 2, 3	13 October, 2pm
3   Six in-class quizzes (each 20 minutes)	40%	1	t.b.a.

(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..." (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

**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](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin))

Graded essays and quizzes 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

- Robin Le Poidevin, *Travels in Four Dimensions: The Enigmas of Space and Time*, Oxford University Press, 2003. Available from VicBooks, [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://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.

## Student feedback

Based on previous student feedback about this course, we have improved the organization of the course, and changed the course content to include a section on free will.

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)