

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Te Whare Wananga o te Upoko o te Ika a Maui



School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations

**Philosophy Programme
Third (Summer) Trimester, 2006**

PHIL/POLS 362 (CRN 14512 and 13093) PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

Course Outline

Philosophy Programme

The Philosophy Programme is located on the fifth, sixth, and seventh floors of the Murphy Building (abbreviated 'MY'). The Philosophy Programme Office is located in Murphy 518, and has a direct line, (04) 463-5368.

Lecturer and Course Coordinator

Ramon Das
Office: MY 608
Telephone: (04) 463-5038
Email: ramon.das@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: M, W 2-3 and by appt.

Class Times and Room Number (please note the different times and days!)

M, W, Th: MY 101, 10:00-12:50
Tues: KK 301, 10:00-12:50

Additional Information

All course information and course announcements will be posted on blackboard.

Course Aims

This course aims to provide an introduction to some central questions in the philosophy of law. Throughout, the focus will be on the question what the law ought to be.

Course Objectives

Students who pass the course will have demonstrated, through the assessment tasks, the ability to critically exposit and evaluate the arguments covered in class and in the readings.

Course Content

PHIL/POLS 362 covers three general topics in the philosophy of law. These include the nature of law; justice; and responsibility and punishment. Within each of these three sections are included several sub-sections. These are enumerated in the textbook for the course.

Key Texts

The required text for the course is Philosophy of Law, 7th edition, edited by Jules Coleman and Joel Feinberg. The book is essential for anyone wanting to take the course. It is available for purchase in the book store in the student union.

Assessment

Two essays of approximately 2500 words (worth 25% each); two quizzes (worth 5% each); and a final exam (worth 40%).

ESSAYS: The **first essay** is due on **Friday December 22, 2006** before 5:00 pm. The **second essay** is due on **January 27, 2007** before 5:00 pm.

QUIZZES: There will be **three surprise quizzes**. The quizzes are designed as an incentive to do the reading. Each quiz will last 12 minutes and will consist of 2 short questions, based on the reading for that day. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam will be a registry-conducted, three-hour, closed book exam. It will consist of two essay questions; students will not be permitted to write on topics they have already covered in written essays.

Relationship between Assessment and Objectives

The quizzes test that students have done the reading for the day. The essays and the final exam are meant to test students knowledge of the material in a relatively in-depth manner.

Workload

The lectures for this course are compressed over three weeks and so the workload per week during that time will be very high. The overall workload should be roughly equivalent to any third year 300 level subject. The University's guideline for a 300-level twelve-week 24 point course is 18 hours per week, including class time.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Completing the essays and sitting the final exam are mandatory course requirements for PHIL/POLS 362.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is strongly recommended but not required. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on missing material if they have missed a lecture. The lecturer will *not* cover material discussed in lectures on an individual basis.

General University policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

Student and staff conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect.

The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

Academic grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Students with Impairments (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic

medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

telephone: 463-6070

email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contact is **Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Maori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.