



School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations
Te Hunga Aro Whakamuri

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
Trimester 2, 2007

PHIL 231/331: Philosophy of Language
CRN 110/1054

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Coordinator: Dr Edwin Mares
Room: Murphy Building, MY 618
Phone: (04) 463-5234
Email: Edwin.Mares@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: 1:00-3:00pm Monday

Other Lecturer: Dr Cei Maslen
Room: Murphy Building, MY 707
Phone: (04) 463-6524
Email: Cei.Maslen@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: Wednesday 10-11 am and 2-3 pm

Lectures: Tuesday 3:10-5pm
Venue: Murphy Building, MY 103

Additional Information: Any additional information or notices about this course will be posted on Blackboard

COURSE AIMS:

PHIL 231 and 331 aim to inform students of the major debates and theories about language from contemporary philosophy. They aim to provide students with the tools to reason about various aspects of language, in particular those that have to do with how we comprehend what people say (or write) and how words are related to the things that they represent.

COURSE CONTENT:

PHIL 231/331 begins with the distinction that started modern philosophy of language – the distinction between meaning (what we understand when understand what people say) and reference (what words are about). We then discuss various theories of reference and theories of meaning. Then we move on to discuss the role of context in language (which is called the “theory of pragmatics”) and the nature of metaphor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students passing this course will have a good grasp of the contemporary philosophical debates about the nature of language. They will be able to coherently and intelligently discuss the central issues in this field.

ESSENTIAL TEXTS:

Coursebook for PHIL 231/331, available from Student Notes

Philosophy of Language, by William G. Lycan, (London: Routledge, 1999)

The coursebooks are available from Student Notes. Students can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz, or email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Vicbooks can courier books to customers or they can be picked up from either shop the day after placing an order online. Their telephone numbers are: Kelburn: 463 5515, Pipitea: 463 6160.

Opening hours: 8am – 6pm Mon–Fri (during term time); 10am – 1pm, Saturday

ASSESSMENT:

All essays and take home exams are to be submitted electronically through the “Blackboard” site for the course.

PHIL 231

This is an internally assessed course. The assessment will be based on:

- (a) **One essay, approximately 2,500 words**, worth 30% of total course marks, **due at 4:30 pm, Tuesday 18 September 2007.**
- (b) **One in-class test**, worth 20% of total course marks, will be held on **Tuesday 14 August 2007.** (The test will be 1 hour in duration)
- (c) **Take Home Final Exam**, worth 50% of total course marks, **due 4:30 pm, Friday 19 October 2007.** The questions for the take-home exam will be put on “Blackboard” at least four weeks before the due date.

PHIL 331

This is an internally assessed course. The assessment will be based on:

- (a) **One essay, approximately 3,000 words**, worth 30% of total course marks, **due 4:30 pm Friday 17 August 2007.**
- (b) **One essay, approximately 3,000 words**, worth 30% of total course marks, **due 4:30 pm, Tuesday 18 September 2007.**
- (c) **Take Home Final Exam**, worth 50% of total course marks, **due 4:30 pm, Friday 19 October 2007.** The questions for the take-home exam will be put on “Blackboard” at least four weeks before the due date.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND OBJECTIVES

Writing the essays and final exam for this course will give students good practice at forming views and debating the central issues in contemporary philosophy of language.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK: SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

All essays must be submitted digitally via “Blackboard”; select ‘assignments’ icon in the course menu.

Make sure you save your file as a Microsoft Word document. If you have trouble using this function, make sure you see the course coordinator *before the due date.*

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS

All essays will be submitted to and evaluated by **TurnItIn.com**, an on-line plagiarism detection service, before being graded. Please refer to the information below relating to plagiarism in order to avoid any confusion as to what constitutes plagiarism.

PENALTIES:

Essays submitted after the due date will be penalised as follows:

They will be returned without comments.

Essays more than one week overdue will receive a penalty of **0.5 (half)** a grade.

However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g. illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In such cases prior information will be necessary. It is in your interests to contact the course coordinator as soon as a potential problem emerges – not just before a deadline. Extension forms are available in the Philosophy Programme office. If granted an extension by the course coordinator, students are required to agree to a new assessment due date.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is optional.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each PHIL 231/331 student must:

- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)

PLEASE NOTE that **Friday, 19 October 2007** is the **FINAL DATE** on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme, since this is the date on which we must determine whether students have met the course requirements. This means that the provision for late submission with a penalty does not apply beyond this date. Permission to submit work after 19 October 2007 must be sought in writing from the Head of Programme, Dr Cei Maslen, and will only be granted for serious medical reasons (supported by medical certificate), or in case of serious personal crisis.

Note: A student who has obtained an overall mark of 50% or more, but failed to satisfy a mandatory requirement for a course, will receive a K grade for that course, while a course mark less than 50% will result in the appropriate fail grade (D, E or F).

Workload guidelines

In accordance with Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to PHIL 231 and 18 hours to PHIL 331. This includes attendance of lectures.

AEGROTATS

Please note that under the revised Examination Statute (Sections 6-10) students may now apply for an aegrotat pass in respect of any item of assessment falling within the last three weeks before the day on which lectures cease. In the case of second trimester courses in 2007 the starting point for this period is **Monday, 24 September 2007**.

The following rules apply:

- Where a student is not able to sit a test falling within these last three weeks because of illness or injury etc., an alternative test will be arranged where possible. If the student has completed in the view of the course-supervisor, sufficient marked assessment relevant to the objectives of the course, an average mark may be offered.

- Where a student has an essay or other piece of assessment due in the last three weeks, and has a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation, the student will be given an extension.

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. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely.

Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

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

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

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

GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

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

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 Disability Liaison Person for the Philosophy Programme is Sophia Zhao, tel. 463 5368 or email sophia.zhao@vuw.ac.nz

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** and **Dr Stuart Brock, Murphy Building, room 312**. 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.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Maori and Pacific Mentoring programme

1. Academic mentoring for all Maori & Pacific students at all levels of under graduate study for the faculties of Commerce & Administration and Humanities & Social sciences. Contact Manaaki-Pihipihinga-Programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 6015 to register for Humanities & Social Science mentoring and 463 8977 to register for mentoring for Commerce and Administration courses
2. Post graduate support network for the above faculties, which links students into all of the post grad activities and workshops on campus and networking opportunities
3. Pacific Support Coordinator who can assist Pacific students with transitional issues, disseminate useful information and provide any assistance needed to help students achieve. Contact: Pacific-Support-Coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 5842

We are located at: 14 Kelburn Parade back court yard Room 109 D (for Humanities mentoring & some first year commerce mentoring) or Room 210 level 2 west wing railway station Pipitea (commerce mentoring space). Maori Studies mentoring is done at the marae. Pop in and see us to register with the programme (and use our study spaces and computer suites and free cups of tea and coffee while you study)