



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

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
2008 TRIMESTER 1**

PHIL 106 CONTEMPORARY ETHICAL ISSUES

CRN 2044

THE COURSE INSTRUCTORS:

The lectures are taught by six members of the Philosophy Programme. Their names and contact details are listed below:

Josh Glasgow

MY721 x6902 joshua.glasgow@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30pm

Sondra Bacharach

MY711 x5178 sondra.bacharach@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours: Thursdays 1-3pm, and by apt.

Cei Maslen (**Course Coordinator**)

MY 707 x6524 cei.maslen@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-12.

Matt Gers 463 8556 matt.gers@vuw.ac.nz

MY 621

Office Hours: Thursdays 1-2pm.

Dan Turton 463 5233 x8651 dan.turton@vuw.ac.nz

MY 715

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-10:50am

Ramon Das

MY710 x5038 ramon.das@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-4pm

THE TUTORS:

The tutors for 2008 are Matt Gers, Alice Monroe, and Sadaf Momeny. Their office hours and contact details will be announced later.

THE PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME:The Philosophy Programme is located on the fifth, sixth, and seventh floors of the Murphy Building. The Philosophy Programme Office (MY518) has a direct line, (04) 463 5368.

COURSE CONTENT:

Weeks 1-2	Joshua Glasgow	Introduction to Ethics, Animal Rights
Weeks 3-4	Sondra Bacharach	Abortion
Weeks 5-6	Cei Maslen	Future Generations. Environment
Weeks 7-8	Matt Gers	Euthanasia and Advance Directives. Cloning
Weeks 9-10	Dan Turton	Happiness and Advertising. Happiness and Bioethics.
Weeks 11-12	Ramon Das	Global Justice. Corporate Globalism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After successfully completing the course students will be able to distinguish arguments from non-arguments. They will recognise what kind of moral argument is being presented for a position and understand how the argument might be criticised. They will also be capable of formulating their own arguments for positions on the various moral issues.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD:

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 12 hours per week to PHIL 106. This includes 3 hours of lectures and one hour of tutorial per week.

LECTURE TIMES: Lectures are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00-9:50.

VENUE: On Mondays the lecture is held in KK LT301. On Wednesdays and Fridays, HU LT 323

TUTORIALS: Tutorials are held once a week, starting in the **second** week of the trimester. You should sign up on-line via the procedure explained under “Announcements” on the course Blackboard website, where the times for each tutorial can also be found. If, for whatever reason, you’re not enrolled in a tutorial group that fits your timetable, and you want to be, then you should see Sophia Zhao in MY518 to get signed up (though, be warned, each tutorial can fit no more than 24 people). Attendance at tutorials is not compulsory, but is strongly recommended.

ESSENTIAL TEXTS: All readings can be found in a PHIL Course book, costing \$24.30, available from Student Notes Shop on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop the day after placing an order online.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays)

10.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturdays.

Phone: 463 5515

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS:

PHIL 106 is assessed on the basis of one essay, one in-class test, and a final examination.

The **in-class test** will be held during the lecture time on Wednesday April 2nd. Information about the test will be available on the assignments page. Note that the lecture time, Wednesday April 2nd, 9:00-9:50, is the only time you can sit the test. There is no possibility of a make-up test. The test is worth 15% of your overall grade.

The **essay**, of approximately 2,000 words, is due by 4:00 pm on Friday May 9. All relevant information about the essay—including the essay question—will soon be available on the Blackboard Assignments page. The essay is worth 35% of your overall grade. This must be turned in via Blackboard *and* submitted as a paper copy in MY518.

The **final examination** is a closed-book, three-hour examination. Students must answer four questions, all of which will have equal marks value. The exam will be divided into four sections, from which you must answer one question each. The final examination is worth 50% of your overall grade.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS: To gain a pass in this course each student must submit the essay and sit the final exam.

PLEASE NOTE that Friday 8 June 2008 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 8 June must be sought in writing from the Head of Programme, and will only be granted for serious medical reasons (supported by medical certificate), or in case of serious personal crisis.

NB: 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).

STATEMENT ON PENALTIES

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 5% per day, up to a maximum of 10 days. 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.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Any additional information will be announced in class and posted on the class BlackBoard website.

AEGROTATS

Please note that under the Assessment Statute (Sections 4.5) 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 first trimester courses in 2008 the starting point for this period is Monday 14 May 2008.

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.
- if none of the above is available to the student, e.g., if she/he has an ongoing illness, than an aegrotat will be considered. See Assessment Statute (Sections 4.5) for a full explanation of the rules governing the provision of aegrotats in these circumstances.

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 ones 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. All cases will be recorded on a central database and severe penalties may be imposed. 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.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

The University requires that certain information be communicated to students, either in the course outline or electronically (ref. Assessment Handbook 3.3). The current version of this information (adapted for FHSS courses) is below, and has also been saved as a separate document in the Common Folder (M:\Common\Course Administration\Course Outlines). This may be appended to your course outline without alteration.

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 hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct

- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support