



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

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME**  
Trimester 1, 2008

**PHIL 224: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION**  
CRN 4772

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Coordinator:** Dr. David Eng  
**Room:** Murphy Building, MY 716  
**Phone:** 463 5699  
**Email:** [david.eng@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:david.eng@vuw.ac.nz)  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Lecturer:** Dr. Ken Perszyk  
**Room:** MY 718  
**Phone:** 463 7410  
**Email:** [ken.perszyk@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:ken.perszyk@vuw.ac.nz)  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Lecturer:** Dr. Stuart Brock  
**Room:** MY 701  
**Phone:** 463 6970  
**Email:** [stuart.brock@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:stuart.brock@vuw.ac.nz)  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Lectures:** Mon, Wed: 14:10-16:00  
**Venue:** Hugh Mackenzie, Lecture Theatre 001, LT 001  
**Tutorials:** There are no tutorials for this course

**Additional Information:** Additional information or notices about this course will be posted on Blackboard.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

This course is an introduction to problems in contemporary analytical philosophy of religion. These problems include whether the Judeo-Christian conception of God, understood as an omnipotent, omniscient and morally perfect person is coherent and consistent with other claims typically found in the Christian tradition. Other problems include whether religious scripture and experiences can justify religious belief, and what attitude is appropriate if religious beliefs are not supported by evidence. A more detailed lecture outline is posted on Blackboard.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Students who pass this course should understand some of the key problems in contemporary analytical philosophy of religion. They should be able to analyze and write clearly on the key views and arguments relating to these problems.

**EXPECTED WORKLOAD:**

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours, which includes 4 hours of lecture, per week to this course.

**READINGS AND ESSENTIAL TEXTS:**

Students must purchase the **PHIL 224/324 course book**, available at Student Notes. Student notes are sold through the Student Notes Distribution Centre, ground floor, Student Union Building, tel. 0-4-463 6621, fax. 0-4-463 5510. The Student Notes Distribution Centre is open Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm.

Any supplementary readings will be posted on Blackboard.

**ASSESSMENT:**

The assessment for this course will be based on 1) regular pop quizzes and 2) two essays.

*1) Pop Quizzes:*

The pop quizzes are worth a total of 10% of the final grade. There will be 10 pop quizzes, each taking approximately 5 minutes and worth 1% of the final grade. The pop quizzes will involve 4 multiple choice questions and test whether you have a basic knowledge of the readings assigned for the class period. Prior notification of the exact dates of the quizzes will not be given, but students should expect them to occur regularly throughout the semester.

*2) Essays:*

Students are required to write two essays. Each essay is worth 45% of the final grade. The first essay will cover the material in the first half of the course and the second essay will cover the material in the second half.

Each essay should be approximately 2500 words with no padding or waffle. The due date and time for the **first essay is noon, 28 April 2008**. The due date and time for the **second essay is noon, 13 June, 2008**.

Each essay must be submitted in two different modes. A paper copy must be submitted to the main office (MY 518) of the Philosophy programme, and a digital copy must be submitted to blackboard (select 'assignments' for further instructions). The digital copy must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document and should adhere to the following format: last name, underscore, first name, underscore, essay letter, dot, doc (for example: eng\_david\_c.doc). If you have trouble submitting your paper in this way, be sure to contact the course coordinator for assistance before the due date. The paper copy is only a backup if there is a problem with the digital submission.

Essays in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of

cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

#### **PENALTIES:**

A make-up for the pop quizzes will be granted only if there are valid grounds, e.g. illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary). In such cases, you must notify the course coordinator as soon as a potential problem emerges.

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 5% for the first day late (e.g., 10 a.m. 29 April), and 5% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 5 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, you must notify the course coordinator as soon as a potential problem emerges.

#### **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

There are no mandatory course requirements for this course.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

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

#### **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 12 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.
- If none of the above is available to the student, e.g., if she/he has an ongoing illness, then 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 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. 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.

More information about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, can be found on the University's website:

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx)

#### **GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES**

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 Victoria home page at:

[http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.vuw.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