



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

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
2008 TRIMESTER 1**

PHIL 318: Philosophy of Science

CRN 1044

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Lecture Times: Mon, Fri 10.00 am – 11.50 am
Venue: Kelburn Parade (KP) 24 LT 202

Office Hours: will be announced at the first lecture and posted on Blackboard. You are also welcome to telephone or email me.

Additional Information

All additional information or information on changes will be posted on Blackboard.

Course content

This course will cover the history and central topics of contemporary philosophy of science. It will begin with a four-week section on the history of the philosophy of science during the 20th Century. Then there will be a section on the debate between realists and anti-realists followed by a section concerned with the nature of explanation. The final three weeks will be taken up by a special topic to be decided during the semester.

Course objectives

The main aim is to provide a survey of contemporary philosophy of science. The student who passes this course will have acquired a reasonably detailed understanding of the central 20th and early 21st Century debates in philosophy of science, such as the debates over realism, over the nature of confirmation, and over the nature of explanation.

Expected workload

Students will be expected to do weekly reading and to write three essays. This is a 24 point course. One point typically equates to 10 hours of work over the semester. Thus, 240 hours of work spread over the semester, breaks, and exam period is recommended. This includes 3 hours of lectures per week.

Readings

Readings are all from the PHIL 318/418 Coursebook.

Essential texts:

The only text is the PHIL 318/418 Coursebook.

Books of Reading are distributed from the Student Notes Shop on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Assessment requirements

The grade is based entirely on 2 essays and a take home exam. The two essays are worth 30% each and the exam is worth 40%. The essay topics will be posted on Blackboard as will the exam questions.

Each essay is to be about 3000 words.

Due dates:

1. Essay 1: 11 April.
2. Essay 2: 12 May

The examination period for Trimester 1 2008 is 2 – 28 June 2008.

Statement on penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 5% per day (e.g. from 80 to 75 for an essay that is one day late). 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, extensions must be obtained from Sondra Bacharach (or Nick Agar, if Sondra is unavailable). Extensions should be obtained prior to the due date, or as soon as possible after the due date if unforeseeable circumstances prevent this.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements other than obtaining an overall passing mark on a sufficient number of assignments to get at least 50%.

Communication of additional information

All additional information will be available on Blackboard.

Statement on legibility (optional)

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply

- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

Statement on the use of Turnitin (only for courses which make use of Turnitin)

Student work provided for assessment 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 your tutor or 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.

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. 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

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