

School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations  
**Philosophy Programme**  
**First Trimester, 2008**

**PHIL 361/461 (CRN 1061/8684) Philosophy of Economics**  
**Course Outline**

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

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Ramon Das    MY 608    x5038    Office hours Th 1-3    [ramon.das@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:ramon.das@vuw.ac.nz)

**LECTURES:** Lectures are held on Wednesdays in Hugh Mackenzie 001 (note room change!) from 10:00-1:00.

**TUTORIALS:** There are no tutorials for this course.

**TEXT:** The text for this course is *Economic analysis, moral philosophy, and public policy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by Daniel Hausman and Michael McPherson (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2006). It is available for purchase at Vicbooks. Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:** The main aim is to provide an introduction to some central problems in the philosophy of economics. The student who passes this course will have acquired an adequate understanding of, and ability to evaluate, arguments and issues that arise in this area. The course should provide a solid foundation for further work in the philosophy and economics, and also help students think more carefully and critically about a wide range of issues.

**COURSE OUTLINE:** The course is divided into four sections:

I	Rationality and Morality	Lectures 1-3
II	Economic Models and Reality	Lectures 4-6
III	Welfare and Consequences	Lectures 7-9
IV	Liberty, Equality, and Justice	Lectures 10-12

**ASSESSMENT:**

PHIL 361 is assessed on the basis of two essays of approximately 2500 words, worth 30% each, and a final take-home assessment, worth 40%.

The **first essay** is due by **5:00 pm on Friday 4 April**. The **second essay** is due by **5:00 pm on Friday 16 May**. Both essays must be submitted electronically to Blackboard; a hard copy is not required. All relevant information about the essays—including the essay questions—will be made available on the assignments page.

The **take-home final** will consist of two essay questions. **It will be distributed on Wednesday, 28 May, the last day of class, and will be due at 5:00 Saturday 31 May. It must be submitted electronically to Blackboard.**

PHIL 461 is assessed on the basis of three essays. The due dates are: 7 July; 1 September; and 27 October. Essays must be submitted electronically to Blackboard.

**RELATION BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND COURSE AIMS/OBJECTIVES:** The topics for the essays and the final take-home assessment are chosen to ensure that the subject matter in the course has been adequately covered in the depth

appropriate for the 300-level, while also giving students an opportunity to focus on those arguments and issues that they find most interesting. Students should demonstrate that they understand and can evaluate arguments and issues from four subject areas of the course.

## MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course each 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)

## PENALTIES

PHIL 361 students will be penalised 2 marks per day for any essay submitted after the relevant deadline. No essays will be accepted after 28 May for any reason.

## WORKLOAD

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 18 hours per week to the course. This includes three hours of lectures.

## **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](http://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](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