



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

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME  
2008 TRIMESTERS 1 and 2**

**PHIL 409: Topics in Contemporary Philosophy**

**CRN 1075**

**Lecturer 1:** Josh Glasgow  
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**Lecture Times:** Wednesday 2-4.  
**Venue:** MY 301

**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 three different areas of philosophy. The first section of six weeks will deal with the nature of race, the second section is to be announced, and the third will look at the nature of scientific revolutions.

**Course objectives**

The objectives of the course are to give students the necessary background to formulate and defend their own views on the topics discussed in the course.

### **Expected workload**

Students will be expected to do weekly reading and to write three essays. This is a 30 point course. One point typically equates to 10 hours of work over the semester. Thus, 300 hours of work spread over the two semesters period is recommended. This includes 3 hours of lectures per week.

### **Readings**

Readings are to be determined by each of the lecturers and arrangements will be made for the students to gain access to them.

### **Assessment requirements**

The grade is based entirely on three essays. The three essays are worth one third of the final mark each. The essay topics will be posted on Blackboard.

Each essay is to be about 3500 words.

Due dates:

Essay 1 is due by 5pm on Friday 6 June.

Essay 2 is due by 5pm on Monday 1 September.

Essay 3 is due by 5pm on Monday 27 October.

No more than two essays can be on any one of the three topics or sections of the course

### **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%.

PLEASE NOTE that **Friday 17 October 2008** is the FINAL DATE on which either of the first two essay 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.

### **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 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](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