



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

**Philosophy Programme
2008 TRIMESTER 2,**

Monday 7 July to Saturday 8 November 2008

**PHIL 208/308 (CRN 11325/CRN 11326) Non-Western Philosophy
Course Information Sheet**

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

LECTURER: Dr J L Shaw

Room: 613, Murphy Building Level 6

Phone: 463-5233 ext 8936 (office); 4764-975 (home)

Email: jay.shaw@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours: Monday and Friday 3-5 pm

LECTURE TIMES: Monday and Friday 1-3pm

VENUE: Hunter (HU) LT 220

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information or handouts will be announced or circulated in the lectures.

COURSE AIMS

The course aims to introduce students not only to the specific arguments of Indian and Chinese philosophers on topic such as causality, suffering, values, harmony and freedom of human being, but also to questions and contemporary issues relevant to philosophy in general. The course will also emphasise some of the distinctive features of Asian and Maori philosophy such as the goals of life and our duties towards other beings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should:

- (a) Be familiar with some of the systems of Indian, Chinese and Maori philosophy;
- (c) Be aware of their metaphysical and ethical positions;
- (d) Be able to compare and contrast the arguments of philosophers from different standpoints.

OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT, KEY TEXTS AND READINGS

See separate handout entitled 'Reading List and Course Outline'.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT for PHIL 208 Students:

Final Exam: The **final examination** is a registry-conducted, open book, three-hour examination, worth 60% of the final assessment. It will be held between 20 October and 8 November 2008.

Final Essays for PHIL 208 Students

One final essay worth 40% of the final assessment. The final essay will be due on 17 October. Overlaps between exam and essay topics are to be avoided. An essay may not exceed 3000 words.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT for PHIL 308 Students:

Final Exam: The **final examination** is a registry-conducted, open book, three-hour examination, worth 40% of the final assessment. It will be held between 20 October and 8 November 2008.

Final Essays for PHIL 308 Students

Two final essays, each carrying 30% of the final assessment. The first final essay will be due on 25 September and second one will due on 17 October 2008. Overlaps between exam and essay topics are to be avoided. An essay may not exceed 3000 words.

Optional Essays

Students are encouraged to write two essays during the course. These essays are optional and not part of the final assessment. They will be commented on and returned to the candidates. The optional essays should be submitted on the following dates: 29 August 2008; 26 September 2008.

METHOD OF SUBMISSION

All final essays are to be submitted digitally in Blackboard.

Directions for submission via Blackboard:

- (1) click on the 'Assignments' icon in the course menu (to the left of the page).
- (2) select 'View/Complete Assignment' for the relevant assignment.
- (3) click the 'Browse' icon, and then select your essay.
- (4) then click 'Submit'.

PENALTIES

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Work that is more than 8 days late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. 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.

COURSE READING

Textbooks can be purchased from Student Notes Distribution Centre located in the Student Union Building on Kelburn Campus. Books of Reading are distributed from the 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

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

Assessment has been structured so as to ensure that some of the systems of Indian, Buddhist and Chinese philosophy or some topics are studied in depth. Questions in the exam will ask you to demonstrate an understanding of some of the distinctive features of Non-Western philosophy, including Buddhism and Maori Philosophy. The essay gives students an opportunity for a relatively philosophically in-depth treatment of one of the issues covered in the course. The exam answers will require relative breadth of knowledge.

WORKLOAD for PHIL 208 Students

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to this course. This includes 3 hours of lectures and 1 hour of tutorial per week.

WORKLOAD for PHIL 308 Students

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 18 hours per week to this course. This includes 3 hours of lectures and 1 hour of tutorial per week.

TERMS

Terms are granted to all enrolled members of the course. All students enrolled in the course will be entitled to sit the final examination.

ATTENDANCE

Students are advised to attend lectures and take an active role in discussion, although attendance is not a requirement for terms or assessment.

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 **second** trimester courses in 2008 the starting point for this period is **Monday 22 September 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, 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.

ESSAY TOPICS:

1. The Nature of human being.
2. Types of Suffering.
3. Goals of Life.
4. Buddhism on Momentariness.
5. Concepts of Harmony.
6. Righteous actions.
7. Freedom
8. Confucian ethics
9. Nature of a gentleperson
10. Maori Values

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