



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

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
Trimester 2, 2008

PHIL 201/301: THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE
CRN 1006/8663

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Instructor: David Eng
Room: Murphy Building, MY 716
Phone: 463 5699
Email: david.eng@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: By appointment

Lectures: Wednesday, 12-2-50
Venue: New Kirk, Lecture Theatre 203

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

COURSE AIMS:

This course focuses on whether and what it means for people to have knowledge and justified belief. The course explores the skeptical challenge, Gettier-style counter-examples, a range of theories of justification and knowledge, and different ways of acquiring knowledge (e.g., memory, relying on artefacts, apriori)

COURSE CONTENT:

The following topics will be covered: 1) Skepticism, 2) Traditional Analysis of Knowledge and Gettier, 3) Foundationalism and Coherentism, 4) Reliabilism, 5) Responsibilism, 6) Virtue, 7) Memory, 8) Extended Epistemic Agency, and 9) Apriori Knowledge.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students passing this course will have a good understanding of some of the central philosophical issues and positions in epistemology. Students will have a breadth of knowledge of the general literature as well as a depth of knowledge about a more limited range of issues within the field.

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.

ESSENTIAL TEXTS:

This course uses a course book, Course Book 201/301, that is available from the Student Notes Centre, Student Union Building.

Texts are available from Student Notes. Students can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz, or email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Vicbooks can courier books to customers or they can be picked up from either shop the day after placing an order online. Their telephone numbers are: Kelburn: 463 5515, Pipitea: 463 6160. Opening hours: 8am – 6pm Mon–Fri (during term time); 10am – 1pm, Saturday

ASSESSMENT:*PHIL 201:*

Philosophy 201 is assessed on the **basis of a final essay, a final 2 hour in-class test and 2 short in-class tests:**

- (a) *Final Essay* (40%): The final essay should be approximately **2,500 words** and is due at **5 pm** on **Wednesday, 22 October**. The essay must be submitted electronically on Blackboard; a hard copy is not required. All relevant information about the essay—including the essay questions—will be available by the second week on the assignments page of Blackboard.
- (b) *Final 2 Hour In-Class Test* (30%): The final 2 hour, in-class test will be on the last day of class **Wednesday, October 8**. This test involves short answers (approximately 1-page single-space) and covers material over the whole course. Six questions will be provided, of which you must answer four. All questions will have an equal value.
- (c) *Short In-Class Tests* (30%): There will be 2 short in-class tests. The **1st test** will be in Week 5 (**Wednesday, 6 August**), and the **2nd test** will be in **Week 9 (Wednesday, 17 September)**. Each test will involve 3 multiple choice questions and 2 short-answer questions (approximately 2 paragraphs). Each test will take approximately 30 minutes to complete and will require you to demonstrate an understanding of the material in a particular section of the course. Each test is worth 15%.

PHIL 301:

Philosophy 301 is assessed on the basis of **a research essay, a final 2 hour in-class test and 2 short in-class tests:**

- (d) *Research Essay* (40%): The research **essay** should be approximately **3,500 words**, and is due at **5 pm** on **Wednesday, 22 October**. Prior to submitting the research essay, students must do a literature search and submit a bibliography and a draft outline of the essay (due Wednesday, 1 October). The bibliography and the draft outline, together, are worth 10% and the final draft of the research essay is worth 30%.

Both the 1) bibliography and draft outline and 2) the research essay must be submitted electronically to Blackboard; a hard copy is not required. All relevant information about the essay—including the essay questions—will be available by the second week on the assignments page of Blackboard.

- (e) *Final 2 Hour In-Class Test*: The final 2 hour, in-class test will be on the last day of class **Wednesday, October 8**. This test involves short answers (approximately 1-page single-space) and covers material over the whole course. Six questions will be provided, of

which you must answer four. All questions will have an equal value. The exam is worth 30% of your overall final grade.

- (f) *Short In-Class Tests*: There will be 2 short in-class tests. The **1st test** will be in Week 5 (**Wednesday, 6 August**), and the **2nd test** will be in **Week 9 (Wednesday, 17 September)**. Each test will involve 3 multiple choice questions and 2 short-answer questions (approximately 2 paragraphs). Each test will take approximately 30 minutes to complete and will require you to demonstrate an understanding of the material in a particular section of the course. Each test is worth 15%.

PENALTIES:

A make-up for the in-class tests 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 instructor 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., 5 pm, 30 October), and 5% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 5 days. 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 these cases, you must notify the course instructor 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 **second trimester** courses in 2008 the starting point for this period is **Friday 19 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.
- 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.

STATEMENT ON THE 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.

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 and may be penalized severely. 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

General University policies and statutes

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 on the VUW home page at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/victoria/calendar/intro.html

or go to: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/default.aspx>

For information on the following topics, see the corresponding Blackboard files (or similar files or course website pages):

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support.