



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

#### **PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME**

#### **PHIL 215/315: SPECIAL TOPIC: HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING 20 POINTS**

**TRIMESTER 3 2013**

### **Important dates**

**Trimester dates:** 18 November 2013 – 23 February 2014

**Teaching dates:** 18 November – 20 December 2013

**Last assessment item due:** 19 December 2013

**Examination/Assessment Period:** There is no examination. All assessment is internal.

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

### **Class times and locations**

**Lectures:** Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 1.10 – 3.00 pm

**Venue:** Hunter (HU) LT119

### **Names and contact details**

**Course Coordinator:** Dr Dan Weijers

**Room No:** MY715

**Phone:** 463 6664

**Email:** [dan.weijers@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:dan.weijers@vuw.ac.nz)

**Office hours:** Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 3.10 – 4.00 pm and by appointment.

### **Communication of additional information**

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

### **Prescription**

This course examines the major philosophical conceptions of happiness and wellbeing (the prudentially good life). Particular attention will be paid to the contemporary philosophical debate

about what makes our lives go well for us. The implications of these theories for public policy and how we should live are also discussed.

## **Course learning objectives (CLOs)**

PHIL 215 students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the ideas, principles, and concepts of the main philosophical theories of happiness and wellbeing
2. Demonstrate the skills needed to acquire, understand, and assess information about the main philosophical theories of happiness and wellbeing from a range of sources, including journal articles and book chapters
3. Demonstrate critical thinking, analytic rigour, and some intellectual independence through discussing and assessing arguments for and against the main philosophical theories of happiness and wellbeing

PHIL 315 students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a high level of knowledge of the ideas, principles, and concepts of the main philosophical theories of happiness and wellbeing
2. Demonstrate the skills needed to deeply understand, and fairly assess information about the main philosophical theories of happiness and wellbeing from a range of sources, including journal articles and book chapters
3. Demonstrate high levels of critical thinking, analytic rigour, and intellectual independence through discussing and assessing arguments for and against the main philosophical theories of happiness and wellbeing
4. Engage in self-directed learning about the main philosophical theories of happiness and wellbeing through acquiring, understanding, assessing, and applying relevant information from outside of the prescribed reading list

## **Teaching format**

All teaching for this course will occur in 4 lectures per week (each 2 hours long) for 5 weeks. During the lectures, there will be many interactive segments in which students discuss material in small groups or the lecturer directs whole-class discussions. Note that some assessment occurs in lecture time.

## **Mandatory course requirements**

Other than achieving an overall pass mark of 50% there are no mandatory course requirements.

## **Workload**

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

## **Assessment**

Please note that the assessment is the same for both PHIL 215 and PHIL 315 students. However, the standard expected from PHIL 315 is higher as shown in the Course Learning Objectives (CLO) stated above and the CLO column in the tables below. So, for example, a PHIL 315 student would have to write a better essay (e.g. by demonstrating self-directed learning) than a PHIL 215 student to get the same mark.

## PHIL 215

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	<p><b>8 in-class quizzes (top 6 marks count), 5 minutes each</b></p> <p>To encourage attendance at class, you will not be informed of the quiz dates.</p> <p>To encourage timely attendance at class, the quizzes will always be held in the first 5 minutes of class and can be collected by the entrance to the lecture theatre.</p> <p>To encourage completion of the set reading for each class <i>before</i> the class, the quizzes will test recall and comprehension of basic information and arguments from the readings that were set for the day each quiz is held.</p>	30%	1, 2	Multiple, purposefully unspecified (in class; 1.10 – 1.15pm)
2	<p><b>Essay (3000 words)</b></p> <p>Essay topics will be posted on <i>Blackboard</i> before the course starts.</p> <p>You must submit your essay electronically via <i>Blackboard</i> (please consult <i>Blackboard</i> for instructions). This electronic version will be sent to turnitin.com, an anti-plagiarism website, and is the version that will be graded. It is not necessary to submit a hardcopy.</p>	35%	2, 3	5.00pm, 8 December (online submission only)
3	<p><b>In-class test (closed book; 2 hours)</b></p> <p>The test is during the last lecture slot of the course. You will be required to write 3 short essays in the test. More information on topic-areas of the questions will be posted on <i>Blackboard</i> on or before 16 December.</p>	35%	1, 2, 3	19 December (in class; 1.10 – 3.00pm)

## PHIL 315

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	<p><b>8 in-class quizzes (top 6 marks count), 5 minutes each</b></p> <p>To encourage attendance at class, you will not be informed of the quiz dates.</p> <p>To encourage timely attendance at class, the quizzes will always be held in the first 5 minutes of class and can be collected by the entrance to the lecture theatre.</p> <p>To encourage completion of the set reading for each class <i>before</i> the class, the quizzes will test recall and comprehension of basic information and arguments from the readings that were set for the day each quiz is held.</p>	30%	1, 2	Multiple, purposefully unspecified (in class; 1.10 – 1.15pm)
2	<p><b>Essay (3000 words)</b></p> <p>Essay topics will be posted on <i>Blackboard</i> before the course starts.</p> <p>You must submit your essay electronically via <i>Blackboard</i> (please consult <i>Blackboard</i> for instructions). This electronic version will be sent to turnitin.com, an anti-plagiarism website, and is the version that will be graded. It is not necessary to submit a hardcopy.</p>	35%	2, 3, 4	5.00pm, 8 December (online submission only)

<b>3</b>	<b>In-class test (closed book; 2 hours)</b> The test is during the last lecture slot of the course. You will be required to write 3 short essays in the test. More information on topic-areas of the questions will be posted on <i>Blackboard</i> on or before 16 December.	35%	1, 2, 3, 4	19 December (in class; 1.10 – 3.00pm)
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## Submission and return of work

Your quiz answer sheets will be graded and the marks entered on *Blackboard* within 2 working days. Quiz answer sheets will not be returned, but you may discuss your result with me in any of my office hours.

Essays should be submitted through *Blackboard*. The essays will be graded and the marks entered on *Blackboard* on or before Monday 16 December 2013. Individual written feedback on the essays will be posted on *Blackboard* alongside the mark. Students are encouraged to discuss their essay feedback with me during any of my office hours if they would like further feedback.

The in-class tests will be graded and the marks entered on *Blackboard* by 10 January 2014. Test answer booklets will not be returned, but you may make an appointment to discuss your result with me from 10-20 January 2014.

## Penalties

Philosophy Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. For each week or part thereof of lateness, a late assignment gets a 5 point penalty, up to three weeks, after which the assignment will get a zero mark. (i.e. 1-7 days late a loss of 5 marks out of 100; 8-14 days late a loss of 10 marks out of 100; 15-21 days late a loss of 15%, and after that a zero mark.) Please note that these penalties apply to all calendar days (public holidays and days when the University are closed still count as late days). Extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances, but **require the student to provide documentation**. If granted an extension, students must agree to a new due date. Contact Dan as soon as a problem emerges.

## Set texts

All set readings will be posted on *Blackboard* and should be read online or printed off at your discretion. Please ensure that you note which readings are required for which lectures (see *Blackboard* for details) so that you are prepared for the class and the possibility of a quiz.

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected during the first lecture of the course. The contact details of the class representative will be posted on *Blackboard* during the first week of the course.

## Student feedback

This is a new course and, as such, your feedback would be much appreciated. Formal feedback surveys will be distributed near the end of the course, but please also approach Dan or your student representative with feedback along the way if anything comes up.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## In-class surveys

Dan will be conducting 2 happiness surveys during the lectures for this course. The surveys have been approved by the Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee. Please understand that no student is under any obligation to take part in the surveys and that taking part

or not will have no impact on the student's experience in, or marks for, the course. The surveys are also completely anonymous.

## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)