TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
PHIL 104: KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY
20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Study week: 20–24 October 2014

Examination/Assessment Period: 24 October to 15 November 2014

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday and Tuesday, 2.10-3.00 pm, HMLT205
                      Friday, 2.10-3.00, SUMT228
Tutorials: Weekly from 21 July (that is, week 2 of the trimester).

For tutorial times and venue see the website below

www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables

To sign up for a tutorial, click on the following link:
https://signups.victoria.ac.nz/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2findex.aspx

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Simon Keller
Room No: MY720
Phone: 463-9638
Email: Simon.Keller@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Monday 3-4, Tuesday 10-11, and by appointment

Tutors:
Duncan Martin (senior tutor): Duncan.Martin@vuw.ac.nz
Morgan Wisheart: Morgan.Wisheart@vuw.ac.nz
Matthew O'Leary: Matthew.O'Leary@vuw.ac.nz
Nicky Drake: Nicholas.Drake@vuw.ac.nz
Michael Gilchrist: Michael.Gilchrist@vuw.ac.nz

In the first tutorial, the tutors will provide additional information about their contact details and availability.

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

An introduction to philosophical questions about the nature of reality and what (and how) we can know about it. Topics may include: What, if anything, do we know? What is time? What is science? Is the mind separate from the body?

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:
1.   explain the fundamental ethical principles that govern good scholarship in philosophy
2.   explain some of the current debates in the fields of metaphysics and epistemology
3.   evaluate a variety of arguments using established methods of formal or informal logic
4.   an ability to define clearly and precisely key concepts in the fields of metaphysics and epistemology.

Teaching format

PHIL 104 is taught in three 50-minute lectures per week and one 50-minute tutorial per week. A schedule of readings and topics will be provided separately and posted on Blackboard.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements, apart from receiving an overall grade of at least 50%.

Workload

This course has been designed on the assumption that students will devote approximately 200 hours to it throughout the trimester. This is an average of 14 hours per week across the 14 weeks of trimester. This includes attendance at 36 lectures and a tutorial each week. The remainder of your time will need to be shared between tutorial preparation and making progress on assignments.

Things to consider when planning your time:
•   Tutorial preparation involves careful reading of set texts for meaning and argument, as well as note-taking and preparation of responses to topics raised in the readings and lectures.
•   Essays and other written assignments may require enough time for location, retrieval and reading of a range of sources. Note-taking, planning, drafting and editing the draft will all be necessary before writing up a final version.

Assessment

	Assessment items	%	CLO(s)	Due date/assessment date
1	1000 word essay	15%	1, 2, 3, 4	Fri 8 August, 5.00pm
2	2000 word essay	35%	1, 2, 3, 4	Fri 26 September, 5.00 pm
3	Examination, 3 hours	50%	2, 3, 4	During university exam period, 24 October to 15 November 2014

Marking criteria

Marking criteria for the individual pieces of assessment will be discussed in lectures and tutorials.

Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted electronically through Blackboard. Use the "essay submission" link. When marked, essays will be returned to you in tutorials.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions can be granted only with the prior approval of the course coordinator, and only in exceptional circumstances. Having lots of other assignments due around the same time is no excuse; plan ahead. If granted an extension, students must agree to a new due date. Contact Simon Keller as soon as a problem emerges.

Penalties

Essays submitted late will not be accepted unless the student makes an appointment as soon as practically possible with the course coordinator to explain the lateness (ideally before the deadline for submission of the assessment task). The circumstances under which an extension will be considered are outlined in section 3.2.1 of the Assessment Handbook. (see:
 www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf)

Set texts

Students must purchase the PHIL 104 Course Book. The Course Book will be available from vicbooks. Locations and opening hours for course book purchases are available at www.vicbooks.co.nz. All required readings are in the Course Book. Extra reading is not necessary.

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 at the first lecture of the course. You may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

In response to the feedback of previous students, the course will have two essays, instead of one essay and one in-class test; and the list of topics has been broadened to include a wider variety of approaches to philosophical questions.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progess (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz