



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

#### PHILOSOPHY

#### PHIL 106: Contemporary Ethical Issues 20 POINTS

#### TRIMESTER 1 2014

### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 3 March to 2 July 2014

**Teaching dates:** 3 March to 6 June 2014

**Easter/Mid-trimester break:** 18 April to 4 May 2014

**Study week:** 9 – 13 June 2014

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 13 June to 2 July 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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

### Class times and locations

Lectures: Mon, Tues, and Fri, 12.00 - 12.50 pm

Venue: Monday lectures are in Maclaurin (MC) LT103

Tuesday and Friday lectures are in Student Memorial Theatre (SUMT) 228

For Tutorial times and venue see the website below

[www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables)

To sign up for a tutorial, click on the following link:

[signups.victoria.ac.nz/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2findex.aspx](http://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](mailto:Simon.Keller@vuw.ac.nz)

Office hours: Wednesday and Friday, 10.00 – 11.00 am

Lecturer: Justin Sytsma  
Room No: MY710  
Phone: 463 9658  
Email: Justin.Sytsma@vuw.ac.nz  
Office hours: TBA

Lecturer: Nick Agar  
Room No: MY601  
Phone: 463 5046  
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Office hours: TBA

Head Tutor: Duncan Martin  
Email: Duncan.Martin@vuw.ac.nz

Tutor: Morgan Wisheart  
Email: Morgan.Wisheart@vuw.ac.nz

Tutor: Matthew O'Leary  
Email: Matthew.O'Leary@vuw.ac.nz

Tutor: Josef Holden  
Email: Josef.Holden@vuw.ac.nz

## 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 issues in applied ethics. Topics may include: the morality of the death penalty, war, cloning, abortion and euthanasia, and the moral status of non-human animals.

## Course Content

In weeks 1-3 Simon Keller will lecture on moral theory and the ethics of abortion.  
In weeks 4-6 Justin Sytsma will lecture on culture and ethical intuitions.  
In weeks 7-12 Nick Agar will lecture on the death penalty, the ethics of war, cloning, and human enhancement.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a broad introductory-level knowledge of some of the central philosophical issues in the topics covered in the course.
2. Demonstrate an ability to critically analyse some of the central philosophical issues in the topics covered in the course.

## Teaching format

PHIL 106 will involve three 50-minute lectures and one 50-minute tutorial per week. The presumption is that each student will attend all classes (so if information is given in lectures or tutorials, we will assume that all students have it).

## 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 year. An approximate indication of the hours to be spent on each component of the course is as follows:

Preparation and attendance at classes: 100 hours

Breakdown of assessment:

In-class test, preparation and attendance: 15 hours

Essay: 35 hours

Examination, preparation and attendance: 50 hours

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date/assessment date
1	In-class test, 50 minutes	15%	1, 2	Mon 31 March, 12 - 12.50 am
2	2000 word essay	35%	1, 2	Mon 12, May, 5.00 pm
3	Examination, 3 hour	50%	1, 2	During university exam period, 13 June to 2 July 2014

The essays and examination will be evaluated against the following five criteria:

1. directness and clarity in answering the question
2. support of answer with relevant and reasoned argument
3. knowledge of relevant material presented in readings and lectures
4. consideration of alternative viewpoints and arguments
5. quality of writing, including clarity of handwriting where relevant

## Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted in hard copy in class, or to the PHIL 106 mailbox outside MY518 by 5.00 pm on the due date. Written work must also be submitted electronically to the PHIL 106 site on Blackboard. All written work must use double-spaced 12-point text, and must include page numbers.

Essays and tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the Office, MY 518 between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection

## Extensions and penalties

### Extensions

Extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances, but all extensions require the student to provide documentation. An extension can be granted only with the prior approval of the course coordinator, and only in exceptional circumstances. Procrastination is not a legitimate ground for

an extension, so plan accordingly. If you have other assignments due around the same time, plan ahead.

If granted an extension, students must agree to a new due date. Contact your lecturer as soon as a problem emerges. Extension forms are available in the School office.

## Penalties

Philosophy Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. For PHIL 106 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%; 8-14 days late a loss of 10%; 15-21 days late a loss of 15%, and after that a zero mark.)

## Set texts

Students must purchase the PHIL106 Course Book. The coursebook will be available from vicbooks. Locations and opening hours for course book purchases are available at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz).

## Recommended reading

Extra reading is not necessary. The following book provides helpful backgrounds to many of the topics on the course, and may be worth consulting:

Hugh LaFollette, *Ethics in Practice* 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007.

## 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. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:
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## Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

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).

## 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/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/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)

- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- 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/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)