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 123: CRITICAL THINKING
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

Students who enrol in this course 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

Mondays 10:00-10:50**:**   Hugh Mackenzie LT205

Tuesdays 10:00-10:50**:**   Maclaurin LT101

Thursdays 10:00-10:50**:**   Maclaurin LT101

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: Stuart Brock

Office:	MY701		
Phone:	463-6970		
Email:	stuart.brock@vuw.ac.nz		
Office hours:	By Appointment		

Head Tutor: Katie Hamilton

Office: MY705

Phone: 463-5233 (x-8938)

Email: Katie.Hamilton@vuw.ac.nz

Office hour: Friday 11:00-12:00

Tutor: Agata Orlowicz

Office: MY706

Phone: 463-5233 (x-8938)

Email: agata.orlowicz@gmail.com

Office hours: Thursday 11:00-12:00

Tutor: Matthew Macdonald

Office: MY622

Phone: 463-5233 (x-8952)

Email: matt-macdonald1@hotmail.com

Office hours: Wednesday 11:00-12:00

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.

Course prescription

This course provides an introduction to the theory of critical thinking. Students will learn how to evaluate arguments and weigh up the evidence in support of a conclusion. Students will also learn how to make rational decisions based on the hypotheses they come to believe after consideration of such arguments.

Learning objectives

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. evaluate arguments and weigh up the evidence in support of a conclusion.
2. make rational decisions based on the hypotheses they come to believe after consideration of such arguments.

Graduate attributes

As with all Philosophy courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific attributes in the areas of logical and critical thinking, conceptual analysis and rational and ethical decision-making. For more details please consult our website:
www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/phil-overview#grad-attributes

Teaching format

This course will involve three lectures per week, and one tutorial. Thursday lectures will involve a mini-test on material covered in the previous week. Lectures and tutorials will run for 50 minutes. Tutorials will help students prepare for the test on the Thursday of that week. Attendance at

lectures and tutorials is strongly encouraged but not mandatory. Students will also be encouraged to work in small groups outside of the class and to participate in discussions online through the blackboard course page.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of at least 50%, students must submit a project (as part of group work).

Workload

In accordance with University 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 and tutorials and revision for and completion of all set assessment tasks. The University's Assessment Handbook stipulates that course outlines should "specify the average time that is notionally assigned to the completion of each assessment task." Notional assignments of completion times appear below.

Revision for weekly test:	2-4 hours per test
Test completion time:	50 minutes each Thursday
Revision for final exam:	20-40 hours over the trimester
Exam completion time:	two hours
Group Project:	5-10 hours
Main Assignment:	20-40 hours

Assessment

Assessment Item	Weighting	CLOs	Due Date
Weekly Tests (best seven)	35% [5% each]	1, 2	N/A
Group Project (group assessment)	5%	1	April 17 10.00 am
Main Assignment	30%	1	May 5 10.00 am
Final Exam (two hours)	30%	1, 2	N/A

The project and assignment will be evaluated against the following six criteria:
1. ability to identify and illustrate argument patterns,
2. ability to identify premises and conclusions of arguments
3. ability to uncover tacit premises and presuppositions of arguments

4. ability to interpret arguments charitably
5. ability to evaluate arguments in terms of how rationally compelling they are
6. ability to articulate arguments clearly (salient connection to original text, use of complete declaratives, no misleading operators, no referential ambiguities, etc.)

More detailed information on assessment is posted on blackboard.

Submission and return of work

The group project is due on Thursday April 17 at 10:00am. A hard copy of the project should be handed into the course coordinator at 10:00am in Maclaurin LT101. The main assignment is due on Monday May 5 at 10:00am. Students must submit two versions of their assignment. A <u>hard copy</u> of the assignment (including a marked up copy of the original article) must be submitted to the course coordinator by the start of lecture that day. Before submitting the hard copy, students should also submit a **digital copy** of their diagram (and a scan of their marked up copy of the original article) via blackboard.

Assignments and projects and tests will be returned during tutorials. If students fail to attend these tutorials in a given week, they may collect their assessment tasks from the tutors during their office hours. A grade and feedback for each student on their main assignment will be uploaded to blackboard.

Extensions and Penalties

Groups that fails to hand in a **project** (and individuals who fail to contribute to group work) will be given an opportunity to hand in another make-up project. A make-up project will count towards a student's mandatory course requirements but will not be given a numerical grade (unless the course coordinator is satisfied that there was a legitimate reason for the failure to submit or contribute).

Late submission of **assignments** will **not be accepted** unless the student makes an appointment as soon as practically possible with the course coordinator to explain the lateness (preferably before the assignment is due to be submitted). 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 123 course book. There will also be links to additional readings posted on the Blackboard course page.

Customers can order 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 nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Vicbooks is found on the Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. Phone: 463 5515.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

Students will be required to buy the computer program *Rationale* and use it for their assignment, and some tutorial exercises and mini-tests. The program is available to download at the following url: www.mindmuse.com.au/Thinking_Skill_Solutions/VUW.html. The program usually costs $69USD, but Victoria students enrolled in PHIL123 will be able to purchase it from this personalised webpage for the substantially reduced price of $27.50NZD. Purchases should be made in the first week of the course. Be aware, though, that Rationale is PC software. If you have a Mac, or do not own a computer, see the course coordinator as early as possible to talk about alternatives.

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. Contact details for the class representative will be made available on blackboard.

Student feedback

New Features of this course for 2014 will include participation in the Early Alert/Course Signals pilot (see below for more information).
Student feedback on University courses may be found at
www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Early Alerts (Course Signals)

This course is trialing the Early Alerts (Course Signals) System which aims to help students to be successful in their study at Victoria. The system is designed to help students assess their progress in their study, so that they can adjust their work effort or seek support early in the semester.

Students will receive a traffic light signal through the course Blackboard page:

 Green means high likelihood of succeeding in the course (if your progress does not decline).

 Yellow means potential problem with succeeding in the course (if your progress does not improve); and

 Red means high likelihood of failing the course (if your progress does not improve); Students will also receive email messages from their Course Coordinator.

Student feedback is an important part of our evaluation of the Early Alert (Course Signals) System, and we welcome your comments. If you would like to find out more about this pilot, or would like to provide feedback, please contact Sheila Law, Team Lead, +64 4 463 5233 ext. 4845, or email

sheila.law@vuw.ac.nz. Students have the right to withdraw from the Early Alerts (Course Signals) Pilot Programme. Students who wish to withdraw should contact their Course Coordinator. Information on resources and support services are available at
www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support

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/resources/subjectcontacts.html

- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin

- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure

- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz