



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME PHIL 224/324: Philosophy of Religion 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
Last assessment item due: 27 June 2014
NB: PHIL 224/324 is internally assessed.

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: Mondays and Wednesdays 12.00-13.50 in MY (Murphy) LT220
There are no separate tutorials.

Names and contact details

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Course Coordinator: Ken Perszyk
Room No.: Murphy (MY) 718
Email: ken.perszyk@vuw.ac.nz
Phone: 463 7410
Office hours: by appointment only

Lecturer Emma Wood
Room No.: Murphy (MY) 708
Email: emma.wood@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: by appointment only

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 programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

An introduction to problems in contemporary analytical philosophy of religion, focusing on the Judeo-Christian conception of God, understood as an omnipotent, omniscient and morally perfect person. Is this concept coherent and consistent with other claims typically found in the Christian tradition?

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass PHIL 224 and PHIL 324 will be able to:

1. Explain key concepts discussed in contemporary analytical philosophy of religion.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of key issues and literature in this area of philosophy.
3. Analyse arguments on both sides of a debate in contemporary analytical philosophy of religion.
4. Write a well-structured essay explaining and defending their position on a current debate in philosophy of religion.

In addition, students who pass PHIL 324 will be able to:

5. Engage in some independent research under supervision.

Teaching format

The course comprises two two-hour lectures per week. Discussion will be incorporated into the lectures.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements.

Workload

Students are expected to attend 4 hours of lectures/discussion per week.

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	25 hours
Take-home Assignment	25 hours
Essay Proposal	15 hours
Essay	35 hours

Assessment

PHIL 224: Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	In-class test	25%	1, 2, 3	31 March 12.00-13.50
2	Take-home assignment 1250 words	25%	3	9 May 12:00
3	Essay Proposal 500-750 words	10%	2, 3, 4	5 June noon
4	Essay 2,000-2,500 words	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	27 June noon

1. This test will be held during the lecture time on 31 March. Questions will be based on material covered by Emma Wood from 3 March through 26 March. Details of the format of the test will be provided in lecture and posted on Blackboard.
2. The take-home assignment, due by noon on 9 May, will be based on material covered in lectures from 7 April through 16 April. You will have a choice between two topics. The main aim of this assignment will be to demonstrate an understanding of the main arguments on both sides of a debate.
3. The essay proposal, of approximately 500-750 words, must (i) state clearly which topic you will write on for your essay, (ii) describe the structure of your essay, (iii) state clearly your likely main conclusion(s), and (iv) give an indication (in a separate Bibliography) of works you have consulted or are likely to consult in preparing/writing your essay.
4. Essay topics will be distributed in lectures and posted on Blackboard. The topics will come from the material covered by Ken Perszyk on 2 April and from 5 May on.

PHIL 324: Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	In-class test	25%	1, 2, 3,	31 March 12.00-13.50
2	Take-home assignment 1250 words	25%	3	9 May 12.00
3	Essay Proposal 500-750 words	10%	2, 3, 4, 5	5 June noon
4	Essay 3,000-3,500 words	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	27 June noon

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4. Essay topics will be distributed in lectures and posted on Blackboard. The topics will come from the material covered by Ken Perszyk on 2 April and from 5 May on.

Submission and return of work

The in-class test will be held during the lecture time on 31 March. Grades for the in-class test will be posted on Blackboard (during the week of 14 April) and students will be advised when they are ready to be collected. Students may also collect their tests from the School Office, Murphy 518, between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

Students must submit their take-home assignment, essay proposal and essay to Blackboard. Grades will be posted on Blackboard. Comments will either be posted on Blackboard or written on a hard copy (collection times to be advised). It is anticipated that the take-home assignment will be returned by 23 May. The essay proposal will be returned by 13 June.

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 Ken as soon as a problem emerges. There will be no make-up test for the in-class test.

Penalties

Philosophy Programme policy stipulates that late submission of take-home assignments, essay proposals, and essays is penalised. Late PHIL 224/324 take-home assignments without extensions will receive a penalty of 5 marks per day (or part thereof) late. No take-home assignment will be accepted after noon on 14 May. Essay proposals submitted without extensions will receive a penalty of 5 marks per week (or part thereof) late. No essay proposal will be accepted after noon on 12 June. Essays submitted without extensions having been obtained will receive a penalty of 5 marks per day (or part thereof) late. No essay will be accepted after noon on 30 June.

Recommended reading

The reading materials for this course will be posted on Blackboard.

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:

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.

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-progress (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