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 228/328: Ethics and Genetics
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. 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: Tuesday 3:10-5:00 pm in Cotton (CO) LT 122;
              Wednesday 3:10-5:00 pm in Murphy (MY) LT 220

Each week, from week 2, there will be a one-hour tutorial. You should sign up for a tutorial during the first week of lectures. The tutorials will be held in MY 617. The times are Tuesday 10-10:50, Wednesday 1:10-2, Wednesday 2:10-3.

Names and contact details

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator:	Nick Agar
Room No.:	Murphy (MY) 601
Email:	nicholas.agar@vuw.ac.nz
Phone:	463 5046
Office hours:	by appointment only

Tutor and Lecturer	Felice Marshall
Room No.:	Murphy (MY) 812
Email:	felice.marshall@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 and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

This course deals with moral issues arising out of the application of genetic and other technologies to human beings. Topics to be covered include human cloning, stem cell therapy, radical life extension, and intellectual enhancement.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

PHIL 228
1. Classify and analyse moral arguments for a variety of positions on the ethics of new technologies;
2. Construct philosophical responses to arguments in favour of ethical views about the use of the new technologies;
3. Formulate ethical positions regarding the new technologies.

PHIL 328
1. Classify and analyse moral arguments for a variety of positions on the ethics of new technologies;
2. Construct philosophical responses to arguments in favour of ethical views about the use of the new technologies;
3. Formulate ethical positions regarding the new technologies;
4. Clearly contrast and compare new ethical positions with existing positions in the philosophical literature.

Teaching format

The course comprises two 90-minute lectures and one 50-minute tutorial. New material will be presented in the lectures. Students will be encouraged to participate in lecture discussion. The tutorials offer students an opportunity to test out their own ethical thinking. This has a significant and measurable impact on the quality of written work.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements. All students enrolled in the course are eligible to sit the exam and receive a grade.

Workload

Students are expected to attend 3 hours of lectures and a 1 hour tutorial.

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:
Essays   50 hours
Pop quizzes   10 hours
Examination   40 hours

Assessment

PHIL 228: Assessment items and workload per item	**%**	**CLO(s)**	**Due date**
1	Essay 2,500-3000 words	30%	1, 2, 3	May 9, 5.00 pm
2	3 surprise pop quizzes – the best two of which contribute 5% each	10%	1	See below
3	Exam, three hours	60%	1, 2, 3	13 June to 2 July

1. You should write one essay for this course. A list of essay questions will be distributed separately.
2. There will be three surprise quizzes. These will test your awareness of material covered in the lectures. They will be administered in the first 30 minutes of randomly selected lectures.
3. There will be a three-hour closed book exam. You will be expected to answer two questions in the exam. Each question has a part A and a part B. Part A will be identical to one of the essay questions. You should not answer a part A on a question on which you wrote an essay. Part B will give you an opportunity to explore connections between your Part A answer and some other part of the course. Students will not know in advance what the Part B question will focus on.

PHIL 328: Assessment items and workload per item	**%**	**CLO(s)**	**Due date**
1	Essay 2,500-3000 words	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	April 17, 5.00 pm
2	Essay 2,500-3000 words	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	May 23, 5.00 pm
3	3 surprise pop quizzes – the best two of which contribute 5% each	10%	1	See below
4	Exam, three hours	40%	1, 2, 3	13 June to 2 July

1. You should write two essays for this course. A list of essay questions will be distributed separately.
2. There will be three surprise quizzes. These will test your awareness of material covered in the lectures. They will be administered in the first 30 minutes of randomly selected lectures.
3. There will be a three-hour closed book exam. You will be expected to answer two questions in the exam. Each question has a part A and a part B. Part A will be identical to one of the essay questions. You should not answer a part A on a question on which you wrote an essay. Part B will give you an opportunity to explore connections between your Part A answer and some other part of the course. Students will not know in advance what the Part B question will focus on.

Submission and return of work

Students should submit their essays to Blackboard. Grades and comments will be posted on Blackboard.

Tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their tests from the School Office, Room 518, Murphy Building 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 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 Nick as soon as a problem emerges.

Penalties

Philosophy Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. Late PHIL 228/328 essays submitted without extensions having been obtained will receive a penalty of 5 points per day (or part thereof) late. No essay will be accepted after 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-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