



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
PHIL 389: PRE-HONOURS SEMINAR
20 POINTS**

TRIMESTERS 1 and 2, 2014

Important Dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester breaks: 18 April to 4 May 2014; 25 August to 7 September 2014

Mid-year break: 3 – 13 July 2014

Last piece of assessment due: 6 November 2014

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 the following website: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Seminars

Thursdays 12:00-13:50 Old Kirk LT301

Names and contact details

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

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 will (1) introduce students to theoretical questions about the nature of philosophy and the sub-discipline known as metaphilosophy, (2) teach students practical skills to enhance their ability to do research in philosophy, and (3) support students as they complete their first independent research essays in philosophy.

Learning objectives

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. understand and appreciate the methods used and presuppositions assumed by philosophers in the analytic tradition, and
2. embark on an independent research project in philosophy.

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 the following website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/phil-overview#grad-attributes

Teaching format

This course will involve one seminar per week in the first and second trimesters. Seminars will run for one hour and 50 minutes. Students are expected to attend all seminars for the course and will be expected to read closely two or more articles for each class. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading critically.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of at least 50%, students must:

1. get at least 6/10 overall for the pop-quizzes, and
2. give a presentation on their nominated research essays.

Workload

In accordance with University guidelines, students will nominally 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.

Close Reading for Pop-Quizzes:	3 hours per week (weeks 2-12)
Pop-quizzes:	10 mins each (in lecture time)

Research essays: 99 hours
 489 research proposal: 20 hours

Assessment

Assessment Item	Weighting	CLOs	Due Date
Pop-quizzes (five pop-quizzes based on assigned readings)	10% [2% each]	1	N/A
Two research essays (max. 3,000 words each)	60% [30% each]	1, 2	June 5
Revised research essay	15%	1, 2	November 6
489 research proposal	15%	2	October 16

Each research essay will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. succinctness, clarity and precision of expression,
2. originality of thesis,
3. soundness of argument,
4. understanding and survey of related literature.

Each revised research essay will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. responsiveness to external evaluation,
2. responsiveness to chosen journal's explicitly stated criteria for publication.

Each research proposal will be evaluated against the programme's criteria for acceptance of PHIL 489 proposals: (see: www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/study/postgraduate#ba-hons).

Further details about assessment tasks is posted on blackboard.

Submission and return of work

Research essays (drafts and final copies) and research proposals to the course coordinator via email at the following address: Stuart.Brock@vuw.ac.nz. All essays and proposals should be submitted as a word document.

Test grades will be available on blackboard and feedback will be given in seminar. Research essays (drafts and final copies) and research proposals will be returned and discussed in person at an individual face-to-face appointment arranged with the course coordinator.

Extensions and Penalties

Students who miss just one pop-quiz will not be able to take a make-up quiz. Students who miss more than one quiz for a legitimate reason for missing each of them will be able to take some make-up quizzes (until they have completed five quizzes in total).

Late submission of research essays and proposals 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

A list of readings for each week will be posted on blackboard. Students will be expected to access the materials from the library or online.

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

PHIL 389 is a fairly new course. No formal student feedback has been sought in previous years. Students will be asked to evaluate the course in 2014. 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 (see below for further details)
- 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