



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

PHIL 201 Lec. 03 – “Mind, Matter, and God”

Fall Term 2011

Course Outline

Lectures: T/R 11-12:15

Room: EEEL 210

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| Instructor: Jeremy Fantl Office: SS 1238 Phone: 403-220-5022 Email: jfantl@ucalgary.ca Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:30-2:00 | Teaching Assistant: Mostofa Mansur Office: SS 1211 Phone: 403-210-3884 Email: mnmansur@ucalgary.ca Office Hours: Mondays, 11:00-12:00 |
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Course Description

This course is an introduction to some important issues in the philosophical domains of epistemology, metaphysics, and the philosophy of religion. In particular, we will examine philosophical discussions about the nature and scope of human knowledge, how the mental relates to the physical, the possibility of free will, and whether it is possible to reconcile the existence of an all-good, all-powerful God with the apparent existence of evil and suffering.

Required Text

Course packet, available at Bound and Copied.

Evaluation

- Two ***papers***, the first 3-5 pages long (worth 20%), due November 8th, the second 4-6 pages long (worth 25%), due the last day of class (December 8th).
- A take-home ***midterm exam*** (worth 20%), due February 18th.
- A ***Registrar-scheduled final exam*** (worth 25%).
- ***Tutorial*** performance (worth 10%).

Grading Method

Letter Grades translate to numerical values according to the following scheme:

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| A+: 98.33 | B+: 88.33 | C+: 78.33 | D+: 68.33 | F: 55 |
| A+/A: 96.67 | B+/B: 86.67 | C+/C: 76.67 | D+/D: 66.67 | |
| A: 95 | B: 85 | C: 75 | D: 65 | |
| A/A-: 93.33 | B/B-: 83.33 | C/C-: 73.33 | D/D-: 63.33 | |
| A-: 91.67 | B-: 81.67 | C-: 71.67 | D-: 61.67 | |
| A-/B+: 90 | B-/C+: 80 | C-/D+: 70 | | |

Final Grades are computed by rounding to the nearest recognized letter grade.

Policy on Late Assignments

You can get an extension on one and only one take-home assignment. You can take this extension for any reason at all. But you must clear it with me at least a day in advance of the due date and, again, you only get one. So save it for when you really need it. **All unexcused late assignments will lose the equivalent of 1/3 full letter grade for each day the assignment is late, to a maximum of the equivalent of 4 full letter grades. Missing assignments receive a zero.** Late midterm exams will not be accepted one week after the official due date.

Syllabus

Part I: Mind and Matter

Part Ia: Knowledge

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| 9/13, Tues: Intro | Intro |
| 9/15, Thurs: What is Knowledge? | Plato, <i>Theaetetus</i> , selection |
| 9/20, Tues: Global Skepticism | Sextus, <i>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</i> , selection |
| 9/22, Thurs: External World Skepticism | Descartes, <i>Meditation I</i> |
| 9/27, Tues: Skepticism About Induction | Hume, selection |
| 9/29, Thurs: A More Recent Common Sense Solution | Moore, selections |
| 10/4, Tues: What is an Expository Essay? | Essay 1 Assigned |
| 10/6, Thurs: The Cogito | Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , selection |

Part Ib: The Mind/Body Problem

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| 10/11, Tues: Dualism About the Self | Descartes, cont. |
| 10/13, Thurs: Mental Causation | Princess Elisabeth, Correspondence with Descartes, selections |
| 10/18, Tues: Physicalism | Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes," selection |
| 10/20, Thurs: A More Contemporary Cartesian Argument for Dualism | Gertler, "In Defense of Mind-Body Dualism" |
| 10/25, Tues: The Knowledge Argument for Dualism | Jackson, "What Mary Didn't Know," selection |

Part Ic: Free Will

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| 10/27, Thurs: Compatibilism | Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything" |
| 11/1, Tues: Pessimism | Strawson, cont. Take-home Midterm Exam Due |
| 11/3, Thurs: Libertarianism | Ekstrom, "Indeterminist Free Action" |

Part II: God

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| 11/8, Tues: The Argument from Evil | Three Evil Readings: CNN selection; Reporter Forum selection; Human Rights Watch selection Essay 1 Due |
| 11/15, Tues: Free Will and Greater Good Responses | Hick, "Soul Making Theodicy" |
| 11/17, Thurs: How to Integrate Sources | Essay 2 Assigned |
| 11/22, Tues: The Scapegoat | LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , selection |
| 11/24, Thurs: Against Greater Good Responses | Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence" |
| 11/29, Tues: The Christian Bible's Response | <i>The Book of Job</i> |
| 12/1, Thurs: Making Up for Suffering | Stump, "The Mirror of Evil" |
| 12/6, Tues: A Parable | Flew, "The Falsification Debate" |
| 12/8, Thurs: Exam Review | Essay 2 Due |

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as **an extremely serious academic offence**, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING & STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, phone 403-220-3580 or email at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Email Contact Addresses for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:
arts1@su.ucalgary.ca arts2@su.ucalgary.ca
arts3@su.ucalgary.ca arts4@su.ucalgary.ca