



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 201 L01**  
**“Mind, Matter, and God”**  
**Fall Term 2016**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: T/Th 9:30-10:45**

**Room: CHC 105**

**Instructor:** Jeremy Fantl

**Office:** SS 1238

**Phone:** 403-220-5022

**Email:** [ifantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ifantl@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** T 10:55-12:25

**Teaching Assistant:** Joshua Stein

**Office:** SS 1231

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**Office Hours:** W, 1:00-3:00

***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 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 Texts***

Coursepack, available from the University Bookstore.

***Evaluation***

- Two ***papers***, the first 3-5 pages long (worth 20%), due in class on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, the second 4-6 pages long (worth 25%), due in class on the last day of class (Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>).
- A take-home ***midterm exam*** (worth 20%), due in class on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A ***Registrar-scheduled final exam*** (worth 25%).
- ***Tutorial*** performance, which consists of frequency and quality of engagement in tutorials (worth 10%).

***Letter Grade Conversion Table***

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 get a no-questions-asked extension on one and only one take-home assignment, as long as you clear it with me at least a day in advance of the due date. **All unexcused late assignments 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.**

### **Syllabus**

All readings are in the coursepack.

#### Part I: Mind and Matter

##### Part Ia: Knowledge

9/13, Tues: Intro	Intro
9/15, Thurs: External World Skepticism	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditation I</i>
9/20, Tues: The Cogito and Clear and Distinct Perception	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditations II and III</i> , selections

##### Part Ib: The Mind/Body Problem

9/22, Thurs: What is an Expository Essay	Essay # 1 Assigned
9/27, Tues: Dualism About the Self	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , selection
9/29, Thurs: Mental Causation	Princess Elisabeth, Correspondence with Descartes, selections
10/4, Tues: Physicalism about the Mind	J. J. C. Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes," selection
10/6, Thurs: A More Contemporary Cartesian Argument for Dualism	Brie Gertler, "A Defense of Dualism"
10/11, Tues:	BUFFER DAY

##### Part Ic: Free Will

10/13, Thurs: The Problem of Free Will	Galen Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything"
10/18, Tues: A Compatibilist Solution	Susan Stebbing, <i>Philosophy and the Physicists</i> , selection Essay #1 Due
10/20, Thurs: A Libertarian Solution	Laura Ekstrom, "Indeterminist Free Action"
10/25, Tues:	BUFFER DAY

## Part II: God

### Part IIa: The Problem of Evil and Responses to It

10/27, Thurs: The Problem of Evil	<i>Bhuridatta Jataka</i> , selection Three Evil Readings: CNN selection; Reporter Forum selection; Human Rights Watch selection
11/1, Tues: An Islamic (Mu'tazila) Free Will Response	Abd al-Jabbar, <i>Kitab al-Usul al khamsa</i> , selection Take-home midterm exam due
11/3, Thurs: A Hindu Karmic Response	The <i>Brahma Sutra</i> , selection
11/8, Tues: A Judeo-Christian Finite Mind Response	The <i>Book of Job</i>
11/10, Thurs: READING DAYS	UNIVERSITY CLOSED
11/15, Tues:	BUFFER DAY
11/17, Thurs:	Essay #2, assigned
11/22, Tues: What Can Evil Teach Us?	Eleonore Stump, "The Mirror of Evil"

### Part IIb: Defenses of the Argument from Evil

11/24, Thurs: The Intractability of the Problem of Evil	Andrea Weisberger, <i>Suffering Belief</i> , selections
11/29, Tues: The Scapegoat	LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" Feodor Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , selection
12/1, Thurs: The Misuse of the Problem of Evil	Grace Jantzen, "Whose Problem is the 'Problem of Evil'?" (from <i>Becoming Divine</i> )
12/6, Tues:	BUFFER DAY
12/8, Thurs:	Wrap-up and Exam Review Essay #2 Due

#### Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

#### Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

## D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

## Student Advising and Information Resources

- **General Academic Concerns and Program Planning** – Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** – You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the Department Manager, Merlette Schnell, [schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca).

## Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor or teaching assistant.

## Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

### PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2016:

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For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca))