



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**PHIL 201 L01
"Mind, Matter, and God"
Fall Term 2017**

Course Outline

**Lectures: M/W/F 9-9:50
Room: ICT 102**

Instructor: Jeremy Fantl
Office: SS 1238
Phone: 403-220-5022
Email: jfantl@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: M 10-11:30

Teaching Assistant: Archie Fields
Office: SS 1227
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Office Hours: W 11-12

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.

Prerequisites N/A

Required Texts

Coursepack, available from the University Bookstore.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Introduce students to an array of issues in epistemology, metaphysics, and philosophy of religion
- Train students to write an argumentative paper
- Provide knowledge about how historical and contemporary philosophers have argued for their positions on the respective issues.
- Provide students an opportunity to engage in constructive debate with each other.

Evaluation

- Two ***papers***, the first 3-5 pages long (worth 20%), due in class on Tuesday, October 18th, the second 4-6 pages long (worth 25%), due in class on the last day of class (Thursday, December 8th).
- A take-home ***midterm exam*** (worth 20%), due in class on Tuesday, November 1st.
- 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

9/11, Mon: Intro	Intro
9/13, Wed: What is knowledge?	Plato, Theaetetus, selection
9/15, Fri: Testimony and Perception	Mary Astell, <i>A Serious Proposal for the Ladies</i> , pp. 149-153
9/18, Mon: Belief and Certainty	Mary Astell, <i>A Serious Proposal for the Ladies</i> , pp. 158 onward
9/20, Wed: Dreams and Skepticism	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditation I</i>
9/22, Fri:	Mary Shepherd, <i>Essays on the Perception of an External Universe</i> , selection
9/25, Mon: The Evil Demon	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditation I</i> , cont.
9/27, Wed: The Cogito	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , selection
9/29, Fri: Clear and Distinct Perception	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditation III</i> , selection
10/2, Mon:	BUFFER DAY

Part Ib: The Mind/Body Problem

10/4, Wed: What is an Expository Essay?	Essay # 1 Assigned
10/6, Fri: Dualism About the Self	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , selection
10/9, Mon: THANKSGIVING	UNIVERSITY CLOSED
10/11, Wed: Mental Causation	Princess Elisabeth, Correspondence with Descartes, selections
10/13, Fri:	BUFFER DAY
10/16, Mon: Physicalism about the Mind	J. J. C. Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes," selection
10/18, Wed: A More Contemporary Cartesian Argument for Dualism	Brie Gertler, "A Defense of Dualism"
10/20, Fri: Water vs. Pain	Brie Gertler, "A Defense of Dualism," cont.
10/23, Mon:	BUFFER DAY

Part Ic: Free Will

10/25, Wed: Determinism and Free Will	Galen Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything" Essay 1 Due
10/27, Fri: The Problem of Free Will	Galen Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything," cont.
10/30, Mon: "Responsibility for" vs. "Responsibility to"	Susan Stebbing, <i>Philosophy and the Physicists</i> , selection Take-home midterm exam due
11/1, Wed: Stebbing's Compatibilist Solution	Susan Stebbing, <i>Philosophy and the Physicists</i> , selection, cont.
11/3, Fri: Indeterministic Causation	Laura Ekstrom, "Indeterminist Free Action"
11/6, Mon: Ekstrom's Libertarian Solution	Laura Ekstrom, "Indeterminist Free Action," cont.

Part II: God

Part IIa: The Problem of Evil and Responses to It

11/8, Wed: The Problem of Evil	<i>Bhuridatta Jataka</i> , selection Three Evil Readings: CNN selection; Reporter Forum selection; Human Rights Watch selection
11/10, Fri: Mid-Term Break	UNIVERSITY CLOSED
11/13, Mon: Mid-Term Break	UNIVERSITY CLOSED
11/15, Wed: An Islamic (Mu'tazila) Free Will Response	Abd al-Jabbar, <i>Kitab al-Usul al khamsa</i> , selection
11/17, Fri:	BUFFER DAY
11/20, Mon: A Hindu Karmic Response	The <i>Brahma Sutra</i> , selection
11/22, Wed: A Judeo-Christian Finite Mind Response	The <i>Book of Job</i>
11/24, Fri:	BUFFER DAY

Part IIb: Defenses of the Argument from Evil

11/27, Mon: The Intractability of the Problem of Evil	Andrea Weisberger, <i>Suffering Belief</i> , selections
11/29, Wed:	BUFFER DAY
12/1, Fri: The Scapegoat	LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" Feodor Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , selection
12/4, Mon: The Misuse of the Problem of Evil	Grace Jantzen, "Whose Problem is the 'Problem of Evil'?" (from <i>Becoming Divine</i>)
12/6, Wed:	BUFFER DAY
12/8, Fri:	Wrap-up and Exam Review Essay #2 Due

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

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. 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. Jeremy Fantl (jfantl@ucalgary.ca), Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca).

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, Tram Nguyen (tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

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.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>