



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 201 Lec 01  
“Mind, Matter, and God”  
Fall Term 2018

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 10:00-10:50, AD 142

**Instructor:** Marc Ereshefsky

**Office:** SS 1204

**Office Phone:** (403) 220-3162

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

**Office Hours:** Monday and Friday 1:00-2:00  
& by appointment

**TA:** Nigel Freno

**Office:** SS 1237

**Office Phone:** (403) 220-6465

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

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 1:00-2:00

**Course Description**

This class is a general introduction to philosophy. It will focus on three areas of philosophy: epistemology, philosophy of science, and philosophy of mind. Epistemology explores how we obtain knowledge. Philosophy of science asks what makes a theory scientific. Philosophy of mind attempts to provide an account of the mind.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- Broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, traditions, and views.
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources.
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

**Required Text:** *First Philosophy: Fundamental Problems and Readings in Philosophy, Second Edition* (2011), edited by Andrew Bailey (with Robert Martin). Broadview Press.

**Course Assessment**

- Three in-class tests and five homework assignments are required. No Registrar scheduled final will be given.
- Here is the schedule for tests and homework assignments, as well as their point values.

September 19	Homework #1	50
October 3	Homework #2	75
October 10	Test #1	250
October 24	Homework #3	75
November 7	Homework #4	75
November 21	Test #2	300
November 28	Homework #5	75
December 7	Test #3	<u>100</u>
		1000

- Tests will be given in class. Homework will be collected in class.
- No single test or homework is required to pass the course.
- No make-up tests will be given or late homework assignments accepted without an appropriate excuse.
- Final grades will be awarded as follows.

960-1000 = A+    800-839 = B    680-699 = C-  
 900-959 = A    780-799 = B-    640-679 = D+  
 880-899 = A-    740-779 = C+    600-639 = D  
 840-879 = B+    700-739 = C    below 600 = F

**D2L and Email:** Class information and handouts will be posted on D2L. You'll be sent class announcements through email and the email account used will be the one you gave the University Registrar. So please check that account.

**Tutorials:** A philosophy Ph.D. student will lead tutorials. He will clarify course material and he will highlight which course material is most important for homework and tests. He'll also answer your questions and offer help on homework and tests.

### Topics and Readings

#### *Introduction to Philosophy and Logic*

What is Philosophy?

An Introduction to Arguments

#### *Epistemology*

Rene Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (selections)

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (selections)

#### *Philosophy of Science*

C.S. Pierce, "The Fixation of Belief"

Carl Popper, "Science: Conjectures and Refutations"

Kathleen Okruhlik, "Gender and Biological Sciences" in *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*

Supplementary volume 20, *Biology and Society: Reflections on Methodology*, Mohan Matthen and Robert Ware editors (1994), pp. 21-42. This chapter is available in an ebook through the University of Calgary Library website.

#### *Philosophy of Mind*

Gilbert Ryle, "Descartes's Myth"

John Searle, "Minds, Brains and Programs"

## 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 will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. See the relevant section K.5 on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>.

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](http://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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

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](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/advising> 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. David Dick ([dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)), Jack MacIntosh ([macintos@ucalgary.ca](mailto:macintos@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehanty ([mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mdelehan@ucalgary.ca)).

### Registration Overload/Prerequisite Waivers

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prerequisites for a course, email the Philosophy Department Undergraduate Program Administrator (UPA). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

### Writing

This course will include written assignments. 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](http://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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>