

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**PHILOSOPHY 201 Lec 03  
Winter 2009**

**Lectures: TR 9:30 - 10:45 in EDC 386**

**Instructor:** J. J. MacIntosh, S.S. 1249, 403-220-3164, [macintos@ucalgary.ca](mailto:macintos@ucalgary.ca). Students wishing to get in touch with me via email should ensure that "Phil 201" or some other clearly identifying term occurs in the subject line. Otherwise there is a strong possibility that your message will be deleted unread as spam. Please sign your email so I will know who the email is from without having to go through a search to link your name with your email.

**Secretary:** D. Retzlaff, SS 1248, 220-5533, [dretzlaf@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dretzlaf@ucalgary.ca)

**Office hours:** January 12 - April 14 (except February 17 and March 24) T 1:30 - 3:00 **or** by appointment. After April 14: by appointment. Note that this means what it says. You are not limited to T 1:30-3, but you may need to make an appointment. If you email me to ask for an appointment, please be sure to tell me the times you are available. Remember too that emails should be signed.

**Tutor:** Masashi Kasaki, SS 1237, tel. 220-6465, email [kasa2005@gmail.com](mailto:kasa2005@gmail.com). Office hours: Wednesday 11:00-1:00 **or** by appointment. Note that there are no tutorials in the first week of term, January 12-18.

**Course description:** The aim of the course is to teach students to think clearly and systematically about central topics in philosophy. The following outline will be followed as closely as possible, or at least desirable; class discussion and interest will be allowed to affect course content.

1. General philosophical and conceptual background; introduction to the analytical tools needed for critical discussion in philosophy and elsewhere.
2. Knowledge and scepticism: problems connected with knowledge and associated areas such as memory, perception, and other minds.
3. Induction, and the notion of a causal law.
4. Philosophy of religion: (a) existence proofs and disproofs.
5. Philosophy of religion: (b) faith and reason—the fideist challenge.
6. Identity, persons, and personal identity.
7. Morality and theories about morality.

There will not be enough time to discuss these topics in detail, and students will be expected to read independently: lectures will parallel, not paraphrase, the text. Throughout the aim will be to arrive at an ability to *discuss* these difficult and abstract issues. A *discussion* involves a critical assessments of the considerations for *and* against a given issue. Remember that your *opinions*, no matter how fascinating or firmly held, are merely a starting point. It is your ability to assess the *arguments* that tell for and against those opinions that are of philosophical interest. You should cast a carefully appraising eye on *all* the arguments available, including those offered by your text, your tutor, your instructor, and yourself. Inspect with particular care arguments in favour of views which are close to your heart: it is precisely here that unconscious bias is likely to creep in.

At some point toward the end of term 15-20 minutes at the beginning of class will be used for the Faculty student survey.

**Text:** Andrew Bailey, ed., *First Philosophy* (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2002)

**Marks:** Marks will be based on a combination of in-class tests and assignments.

*Tests:* There will be three in-class tests. The first, on February 26, will be worth 30% of the final mark; the second, on April 2, will be worth 40% of the final mark; the third, on April 16, will be worth 10% of the final mark. Students may bring to each test a single sheet of standard sized paper (approx. 21.5 x 28 cm). You may put on the paper anything you like (201 notes, recent photograph of Aristotle, photo-reduced postage stamp sized copy of *First Philosophy*, etc.) No other notes or books may be consulted during the test. On your tests please write as legibly as time allows and if possible use a pen, not a pencil. (Simply cross out material you do not wish to have considered—there is no need to erase it.) Your mark may sometimes have a slash ('/') in it, thus: B/B+. In such cases the first mark is the official mark, the second shows which end of the mark you are closer to. An A-/B+ is an A- at the lower end; an A-/A is an A- at the upper end. Letter grade marks will be averaged by using GPA numerical equivalents.

*Assignments:* There will be 5 tutorial assignments (marked out of 20), each worth 4% of the final mark, for a total of 20% of the final mark. Regular attendance at tutorials is optional, but students should note that regular attendance is consistently correlated with higher marks. Assignment topics will be given out on Thursdays, and 2-3 page answers (500 - 900 words) must be in the marked box in the Philosophy Department (12th floor Social Sciences) by 4:00 on the following Fridays: A1 due Jan 30; A2 due Feb 13; A3 due Mar 6; A4 due Mar 13; A5 due Mar 27. No late assignments save in exceptional circumstances and **after consultation with the tutor**. Emailed submissions are not accepted: hard copies only. Assignments may be handed in, in class, before the time they are due, or deposited in the clearly marked box in the hallway of the Philosophy Department (12th floor, Social Sciences). Letter grades for cumulative tutorial mark: 91-100 → A+; 85-90 → A; 80-84 → A-; 75-79 → B+; 70-74 → B; 65-69 → B-; 60-64 → C+; 55-59 → C; 50-54 → C-; 45-49 → D+; 40-44 → D; 0-39 → F.

*General:* There will be no registrar scheduled final exam. After each of the first two tests students may submit an optional term paper (due date: two weeks after return of the corresponding test). The term paper mark will, if higher, replace the mark of the corresponding test for the purpose of calculating the final mark, unless the test mark was an F, in which case that mark will stand.

**Style, etc.:** While we will make an effort to separate philosophical content from the method of presentation, students should be aware that use of sexist language, or an undue number of spelling mistakes or grammatical infelicities other than obvious slips, will almost certainly have an adverse effect on many readers, including the instructor of this course.

For tests your writing will be hurried, and consequently standards of spelling and grammar will be gentler, but on the optional papers, should you decide to do one, more (though not *much* more) will be expected. In particular, more than five grammatical or spelling mistakes on any one page of a paper will lead to the paper being returned for corrections before a mark is assigned. Corrections are due within three days of the return, with late submissions subject to the same conditions as above. Two examples of the same mistake (two misspellings of "conceive", for example) count as two mistakes. Standard U. S. alternative spellings ('color' for 'colour', 'defense' for 'defence', 'theater' for 'theatre', etc.) are acceptable. Common mistakes in philosophy papers include: (1) misspellings of 'existence,' 'conceive,' 'argument,' and 'separate'; (2) the misuse of 'i.e.' for 'e.g.'; (3) the misuse of 'phenomena' and 'criteria' as singulars. They are plurals. The singulars are 'phenomenon' and 'criterion.' Finally there is (4) the increasingly common use of 'it's' as a possessive. Perhaps this almost ubiquitous error will become standard, but it has not done so yet, and just as we do not speak of "he's book," or "she's pen" so we should not refer to "it's colour." Of course you should avoid sexist language. In particular, remember that 'man' and 'he' are not gender neutral, and that 'girl' is not an appropriate term for adult women. No doubt these remarks about spelling and other mistakes are unnecessary for *you*. I put them in simply to ensure that they remain unnecessary.

**Students' Union:** The Students' Union has requested that instructors put the name of the appropriate Faculty Representative on course outlines in order to facilitate student consultation with the Students' Union. The Faculty Representative for Humanities this year is Daniel Pagan, MSC 251, 220-3913, [humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca).

**Students with Disabilities:** following is the University's statement regarding students with disabilities that may adversely affect their academic performance:

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please 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

**Plagiarism:** It is not plagiarism to use, expand, or alter the argument of another person, provided that the source is clearly indicated. Giving your sources has three functions: first, it shows that you are not indulging in casual theft, hoping to pass off someone else's hard won ideas as your own; secondly, it allows your readers to check the matter out for themselves; and thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, it will allow *you*, on some future occasion, to find the original of a worthwhile but only half-remembered, point. I do not expect plagiarism to be a problem in this particular class, but plagiarism is unfortunately a problem in our university and I hereby, *pro forma*, draw your attention to the University statement concerning intellectual honesty:

### 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 is an extremely serious offence. 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.