



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 201 Lec. 01 - "Mind, Matter, and God"

Winter Term 2011

Course Outline

Lectures: M/W/F 10-10:50

Room: ST 139

<b>Instructor:</b> Jeremy Fantl <b>Office:</b> SS 1238 <b>Phone:</b> 403-220-5022 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca">jfantl@ucalgary.ca</a> <b>Office Hours:</b> Mondays, 12:00-1:30	<b>Teaching Assistant:</b> Ka Wo Chan <b>Office:</b> SS 1229 <b>Phone:</b> 403-220-7518 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:kwchan@ucalgary.ca">kwchan@ucalgary.ca</a> <b>Office Hours:</b> Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00
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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 February 28<sup>th</sup>, the second 4-6 pages long (worth 25%), due the last day of class (April 15<sup>th</sup>). ***Late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for each day they are late, up to 4 letter grades. Papers not turned in will receive a zero.***
- A take-home ***midterm exam*** (worth 20%), due February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- A ***Registrar-scheduled final exam*** (worth 25%).
- ***Tutorial*** performance (worth 10%).

## Grading Method

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

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 one 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

### Part I: Mind and Matter

#### Part Ia: Knowledge

1/10, Mon: Intro	Intro
1/12, Wed: What is Knowledge?	Plato, <i>Theaetetus</i> , selection
1/14, Fri: Global Skepticism	Sextus, <i>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</i> , selection
1/17, Mon: Skepticism and Self-Defeat	Sextus, cont.
1/19, Wed: External World Skepticism	Descartes, <i>Meditation I</i>
1/21, Fri: Dreams and Evil Demons	Descartes, cont.
1/24, Mon: Skepticism About Induction	Hume, selection
1/26, Wed: A Common Sense Solution	Reid, selection
1/28, Fri: A More Recent Common Sense Solution	Moore, selections
1/31, Mon: Catching Up	Buffer Day
2/2, Wed: What is an Expository Essay?	Essay # 1 Assigned
2/4, Fri: The Cogito	Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , selection

### Part Ib: The Mind/Body Problem

2/7, Mon: Dualism About the Self	Descartes, cont.
2/9, Wed: Mental Causation	Princess Elisabeth, Correspondence with Descartes, selections
2/11, Fri: Physicalism	Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes," selection
2/14, Mon: A More Contemporary Cartesian Argument for Dualism	Gertler, "In Defense of Mind-Body Dualism"
2/16, Wed: The Knowledge Argument for Dualism	Jackson, "What Mary Didn't Know," selection
2/18, Fri: CLASS CANCELLED	Take-home Midterm Exam Due

### Part Ic: Personal Identity and Free Will

2/28, Mon: A Case Study	<i>Law and Order</i> , "Pro Se" Essay #1 Due
3/2, Wed: The Memory View	Locke, "Of Identity and Diversity"
3/4, Fri: Against the Memory View	Reid, "Of Mr. Locke's Account of Our Personal Identity"
3/7, Mon: Reidian and Hindu Anti-Reductionism	Reid, "Of Identity" <i>Upanishads</i> , selections
3/9, Wed: Buddhist and Humean Eliminativism	<i>A Sourcebook on Indian Philosophy</i> , selections; Hume, "Of Personal Identity"
3/11, Fri: Catching Up	Buffer Day
3/14, Mon: Compatibilism	Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything"
3/16, Wed: Pessimism	Strawson, cont.
3/18, Fri: Libertarianism	Ekstrom, "Indeterminist Free Action"

### Part II: God

3/21, Mon: The Argument from Evil	Three Evil Readings: CNN selection; Reporter Forum selection; Dostoevsky, selection
3/23, Wed: The Scapegoat	LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"
3/25, Fri: How to Integrate Sources	Essay 2 Assigned
3/28, Mon: The "Augustinian" Free Will Response	Hick, "Soul Making Theodicy"
3/30, Wed: The "Irenaean" Free Will Response	Hick, cont.
4/1, Fri: Against Greater Good Responses	Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence"
4/4, Mon: Against the Augustinian Free Will Response	Mackie, cont.
4/6, Wed: The Christian Bible's Response	<i>The Book of Job</i>
4/8, Fri: Making Up for Suffering	Stump, "The Mirror of Evil"
4/11, Mon: Three Parables	Flew, Hare, and Mitchell, "Theology and Falsification"
4/13, Wed: Belief Without Evidence	Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief"
4/15, Fri: 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.

## **STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES**

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are Laura Golebiowski ([arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan ([arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)), Lara Schmitz ([arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)), and Vincent St. Pierre ([arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)).

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. 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 unless other arrangements have been made in writing and filed with the Department Administrator.

## **SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS**

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).