



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 201 Lec. 01 – “Mind, Matter, and God”**

**Winter Term 2012**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: T/R 11-12:15**

**Room: ST 143**

<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> Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30	<b>Teaching Assistant:</b> Lee Elkin <b>Office:</b> SS 1242 <b>Phone:</b> 403-220-6464 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ljelkin@ucalgary.ca">ljelkin@ucalgary.ca</a> <b>Office Hours:</b> Friday, 12:00-1:00
---	---

***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 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 the University Bookstore.

***Evaluation***

- Two ***papers***, the first 3-5 pages long (worth 20%), due March 6<sup>th</sup>, the second 4-6 pages long (worth 25%), due the last day of class (April 12<sup>th</sup>).
- A take-home ***midterm exam*** (worth 20%), due March 13<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 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.** Late midterm exams will not be accepted one week after the official due date.

## Syllabus

### Part I: Mind and Matter

#### Part Ia: Knowledge

1/10, Tues: Intro	Intro
1/12, Thurs: What is Knowledge?	Plato, <i>Theaetetus</i> , selection
1/17, Tues: Global Skepticism	Sextus, <i>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</i> , selection
1/19, Thurs: External World Skepticism	Descartes, <i>Meditation I</i>
1/24, Tues: The Cogito	Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , selection
1/26, Thurs: Clear and Distinct Perception	Descartes, <i>Meditation III</i> , selection
1/31, Tues: A More Recent Common Sense Solution	Moore, selections
2/2, Thurs: What is an Expository Essay?	Essay 1 Assigned

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

2/7, Tues: Dualism About the Self	Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , again
2/9, Thurs: Mental Causation	Princess Elisabeth, Correspondence with Descartes, selections
2/14, Tues: Physicalism	Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes," selection
2/16, Thurs: A More Contemporary Cartesian Argument for Dualism	Gertler, "In Defense of Mind-Body Dualism"

Part Ic: Free Will

2/28, Tues:	Soon, et. al., "Unconscious Determinants of Free Decisions in the Human Brain"
3/1, Thurs: Compatibilism	Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything"
3/6, Tues: Pessimism	Strawson, cont. Essay 1 Due
3/8, Thurs: Libertarianism	Ekstrom, "Indeterminist Free Action"

Part II: God

3/13, Tues: The Argument from Evil	Three Evil Readings: CNN selection; Reporter Forum selection; Human Rights Watch selection Take Home Midterm Exam Due
3/15, Thurs: Free Will and Greater Good Responses	Hick, "Soul Making Theodicy"
3/20, Tues: How to Integrate Sources	Essay 2 Assigned
3/22, Thurs: The Scapegoat	LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , selection
3/27, Tues: Against Greater Good Responses	Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence"
3/29, Thurs: The Christian Bible's Response	<i>The Book of Job</i>
4/3, Tues: Making Up for Suffering	Stump, "The Mirror of Evil"
4/5, Thurs: A Parable	Flew, "The Falsification Debate"
4/10, Tues: Evidence and Belief	Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief"
4/12, Thurs: 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.

## **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING & STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, phone 403-220-3580 or email at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Email Contact Addresses for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:  
[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)