



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 201 Lec 02 – “Mind, Matter and God”

Winter Term 2014

### Course Outline

**Lectures:** TuTh 12.30-1.45 in A 142

**Instructor:** Noa Latham

**Office:** SS 1250

**Phone:** 403-220-5528 (no messages)

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

**Office Hours:** Tu 2-3, Th 11-12, and by appointment

**TA:** Gordon Hawkes

**Office:** SS 1227

**Phone:** 403-220-6463

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

**Office Hours:** W 1-2, and by appointment

### *Course Description*

We will begin by discussing some basic concepts and issues concerning how we acquire our beliefs and how they may be mistaken or unreasonable. Then we turn to the difference between scientific and religious thought, and the relation between religion and morality. Next we examine whether we can deceive ourselves, and whether we can be massively deceived by our senses. In the second part of the course we will examine how the mind and body are related, the emotions, and free will.

### *Course Reading Packet*

A course package of readings from classical and contemporary sources is available at the University Bookstore.

### *Course Evaluation*

- A take-home midterm exam available after class Jan 30 and due Feb 3 = 20%
- First paper (1200-1500 words, 4-5 pages) due Mar 3 = 25%
- Second paper (1200-1500 words, 4-5 pages) due Apr 11 = 25%
- A Registrar-scheduled exam = 30%

Participation in class discussion in lectures and tutorials can increase your grade by as much as one grade step (e.g. from B- to B). Cumulative and final grades will be computed by Gradebook on the Blackboard site using the following scale:

A+	98-100	B+	86-89	C+	74-77	D+	62-65
A	94-97	B	82-85	C	70-73	D	58-61
A-	90-93	B-	78-81	C-	66-69	F	0-57

**You are not required to complete all assignments to pass the course, but the grade for a missing assignment is 0.**

All assignments are due at 4pm in the drop box outside my office. Late papers will be marked down by one grade step for each day of lateness. (The time between Fri and Mon counts as one day.) If you are anticipating any difficulty in turning your assignment in on time you must discuss the problem with me or your T.A. before the due date.

### ***Electronic Devices***

Those wishing to use a computer to take notes are requested to sit towards the back of the class. Cell phones should be switched off for the duration of the class.

### ***Course Website***

I shall be using Blackboard to post short notes, grades, assignments, to confirm what we are reading for the next lecture, and to provide some questions on those readings.

### ***Tentative Schedule***

Jan 9	Introduction
	<u>Epistemology</u>
Jan 14	Audi Introduction to <i>Belief, Justification, and Knowledge</i>
Jan 16	Audi "Scientific Knowledge" excerpt from <i>Epistemology</i>
Jan 21	James "Mysticism" excerpt Mackie "The Varieties of Religious experience"
Jan 23	Plato <i>Euthyphro</i>
Jan 28, 30	Law "Can we have Morality without God and Religion?"
Feb 4	Mele "Real Self-deception"
Feb 6	Sartre "Bad Faith" excerpt
Feb 11	Pascal "The Wager"
Feb 13	Descartes <i>Meditation 1</i>
Feb 18, 20	Reading Week
Feb 25	Russell "The Existence of Matter"
Feb 27	Descartes <i>Meditation 2</i>
	<u>Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind</u>
Mar 4	Descartes <i>Discourse</i> excerpt
Mar 6	Smith and Jones "Difficulties for the Dualist"
Mar 11, 13	Searle "Minds, Brains and Programs"
Mar 18	Chalmers "The Puzzle of Conscious Experience"
Mar 20	Aristotle <i>Rhetoric</i> excerpt
Mar 25	Solomon "Emotions and Choice"
Mar 27, Apr 1	Latham "The Relevance of Libertarian Freedom"
Apr 3, 8	Strawson "Freedom and Resentment"
Apr 10	Frankfurt "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility"

### **Academic Honesty**

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, 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**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for 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. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

### Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

### Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning– Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts’ Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the PIC Office can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> 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 current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **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 instructor of the course.

### 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.

### Student Ombudsperson and Students’ Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students’ Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

#### PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR WINTER 2014:

Chris Framarin (Undergrad Director) [chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca)

Reid Buchanan [buchanar@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanar@ucalgary.ca)

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) [migotti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:migotti@ucalgary.ca)

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca))