



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 201 L01

“Mind, Matter, and God”

Winter Term 2020

M/W/F 11:00-11:50 KNB 126

Online via D2L as of March 16, 2020

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Jeremy Fantl

Email: jfantl@ucalgary.ca

Office: SS 1238

Office Hours: available on Wednesdays from 1-2 via email

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Teaching Assistant: Nima Khodabandeh

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Office Hours: TBA

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COURSE INFORMATION:

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 scope of human knowledge, the nature of the self, how the mental relates to the physical, and the possibility of free will.

PREREQUISITES:

None.

Required Texts

Coursepack, available from Bound & Copied.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Outline the fundamentals of an array of issues in epistemology and metaphysics
- Write a persuasive argumentative paper
- Detail how historical and contemporary philosophers have argued for their positions on the respective issues.
- Describe in sympathetic terms the case for the other side.
- Engage in constructive dialogue with fellow peers.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Coursepack available at Bound & Copied.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Two **papers**, the first 3-5 pages long (worth 20%), due in class on Monday, March 9th, the second 4-6 pages long (worth 25%), due on the last day of class (Wednesday, April 15th).
- A take-home **midterm exam** (worth 20%), due on Monday, March 16th. Did they already submit this via D2L?
- A take-home **closed-book final exam** (worth 25%), due April 22nd, via D2L.
- **Tutorial** performance, which consists of frequency and quality of engagement in the in-person tutorials during the first part of the course and online tutorials and discussion forums in the second part of the course (worth 10%).

****Please screenshot the D2L submitted field or sent email when submitting work electronically in case of systems issues.**

Policy on Late Assignments

You get a no-questions-asked extension on one and only one take-home assignment, as long as you clear it with me at least a day in advance of the due date. **All unexcused late assignments 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 are not accepted more than one week late.

Letter Grades translate to numerical values according to the following scheme. Final Grades are computed by rounding to the nearest recognized letter grade.

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.

SYLLABUS

Part I: Knowledge

1/13, Mon: Intro	Intro
1/15, Wed: What is knowledge?	Plato, Theaetetus, selection
1/17, Fri: The Value of Knowledge	Plato, Meno, selection
1/20, Mon:	BUFFER DAY
1/22, Wed: Testimony and Perception	Mary Astell, <i>A Serious Proposal for the Ladies</i> , pp. 149-153
1/24, Fri: Belief and Certainty	Astell, <i>A Serious Proposal for the Ladies</i> , pp. 158 onward
1/27, Mon: Dreams and Skepticism	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditation I</i>
1/29, Wed: A Response to the Dreaming Argument	Mary Shepherd, <i>Essays on the Perception of an External Universe</i> , selection
1/31, Fri: The Evil Demon	Descartes, <i>Meditation I</i> , cont.
2/3, Mon: The Cogito	Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , selection
2/5, Wed: Clear and Distinct Perception	Descartes, <i>Meditation III</i> , selection

2/7, Fri:	BUFFER DAY
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Part II: Personal Identity

2/10, Mon: The Psychological View	John Locke, "Of Identity and Diversity," selection
2/12, Wed:	BUFFER DAY
2/14, Fri: The Expository Essay?	Essay # 1 Assigned
2/17-2/21: Term Break	NO CLASSES
2/24, Mon: Gaps in Consciousness	Catherine Trotter Cockburn, <i>A Defense of Mr. Locke's Essay of Human Understanding</i> , selection
2/26, Wed: The Tabula Rasa	Cockburn, cont.
2/28, Fri: The Simple Self View	Thomas Reid, "Of Identity" and "Of Mr. Locke's Account of our Personal Identity" Upanishads, selections
3/2, Mon:	BUFFER DAY
3/4, Wed: The "No Self" View	A Sourcebook on Indian Philosophy, selections Hume, "Of Personal Identity"
3/6, Fri:	BUFFER DAY

Part III: The Mind/Body Problem

3/9, Mon: Dualism About the Self	Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , selection Essay #1 Due Take-Home Midterm Exam Handed Out
3/11, Wed: Mental Causation	Princess Elisabeth, Correspondence with Descartes, selections
3/13, Fri:	BUFFER DAY
3/16, Mon: Physicalism about the Mind	J. J. C. Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes," selection Take-Home Midterm Exam Due
3/18, Wed: A More Contemporary Cartesian Argument for Dualism	Brie Gertler, "A Defense of Dualism"
3/20, Fri: Water vs. Pain	Gertler, "A Defense of Dualism," cont.
3/23, Mon:	BUFFER DAY

Part IV: Free Will

3/25, Wed: Determinism, Fatalism, and Free Will	Galen Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything"
3/27, Fri: Determinism and Free Will	Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything," cont.
3/30, Mon: The Problem of Free Will	Strawson, cont.
4/1, Wed: "Responsibility for" vs. "Responsibility to"	Susan Stebbing, <i>Philosophy and the Physicists</i> , selection
4/3, Fri: Stebbing's Compatibilist Solution	Stebbing, cont.
4/6, Mon: Indeterministic Causation	Laura Ekstrom, "Indeterminist Free Action"
4/8, Wed: Ekstrom's Libertarian Solution	Ekstrom, cont.
4/10, Fri: Good Friday	NO CLASS
4/13, Mon: Easter Monday	NO CLASS
4/15, Wed:	Wrap-up and Exam Review

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**Academic Accommodations**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at 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: ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

Absence or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Academic Advising

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator phildept@ucalgary.ca).

Writing Assessment and Support

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Online Resources and Electronic Devices

Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. 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.

Academic Misconduct/Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is 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. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).