



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

**PHIL 201 Lec 01**  
**“Mind, Matter, and God”**  
Winter Term 2021

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor:** Jeremy Fantl  
**Email:** jfantl@ucalgary.ca  
**Office Hours:** W 11:00-12:00 (Zoom link to be provided)

**Teaching Assistant:**  
**Email:**  
**Office Hours:**

**COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION**

Hybrid. Asynchronous lectures to be linked to on D2L. Synchronous meetings are Mondays, from 10-10:50. Zoom link to be provided.

**PREREQUISITES**

None.

**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.

**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 TEXTS**

Selected articles and book sections, linked to from the Content section of the course’s D2L page.

**COURSE ASSESSMENT**

- Two *papers*, the first 3-5 pages long (worth 20%), due on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, the second 4-6 pages long (worth 25%), due on the last day of class (Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>).
- A *closed-book midterm exam* (worth 20%), due Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, via D2L
- A Registrar-scheduled *closed-book final exam* (worth 25%).
- *Tutorial* performance, which consists of frequency and quality of engagement (worth 10%).

**POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

You get a no-questions-asked extension on one take-home assignment, if you clear it with me at least a day in advance of the due date. ***Unexcused late assignments lose the equivalent of 1/3 full letter grade for each day late, to a maximum of the equivalent of 4 full letter grades. Missing assignments receive a zero.*** Midterm exams are not accepted more than one week late.

## GRADE SCHEME

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		

## SYLLABUS

### Part I: Knowledge

1/11, Mon: Intro	Synchronous Intro
1/13, Wed – 1/15, Fri: The Nature and Value of Knowledge	Asynchronous lectures on Plato, Theaetetus and Meno, selections
1/18, Mon:	Synchronous discussion
1/20, Wed – 1/22, Fri: Mary Astell's Epistemology	Asynchronous lectures on Mary Astell, <i>A Serious Proposal to the Ladies</i> , selections
1/25, Mon:	Synchronous discussion
1/27, Wed – 1/29, Fri: Dreams and Demons	Asynchronous lectures on Rene Descartes, <i>First Meditation</i> and Mary Shepherd, <i>Essays on the Perception of an External Universe</i> , selection
2/1, Mon:	Synchronous discussion
2/3, Wed – 2/5, Fri: The Cogito and Clear and Distinct Perception	Asynchronous lectures on Descartes, <i>Second Meditation</i> , Part 1 and <i>Third Meditation</i> , selection
2/8, Mon:	Synchronous discussion

### Part II: Personal Identity

2/10, Wed – 2/12, Fri: The Psychological View of Personal Identity	Asynchronous lectures on John Locke, "Of Identity and Diversity," selection and Catherine Trotter Cockburn, <i>A Defense of Mr. Locke's Essay of Human Understanding</i> Essay 1 Assigned
2/15-2/19: Term Break	NO CLASSES
2/22, Mon:	Synchronous discussion
2/24, Wed – 2/26 Fri: The Simple Self View	Asynchronous lectures on Thomas Reid, "Of Mr. Locke's Account of our Personal Identity" and "Of Identity" and the Upanishads, selections
3/1, Mon:	Synchronous discussion
3/3, Wed – 3/5, Fri: The "No Self" View	Asynchronous lectures on <i>A Sourcebook on Indian Philosophy</i> , selections and David Hume, "Of Personal Identity"
3/8, Mon:	Synchronous discussion Essay #1 Due Midterm Exam Released

### Part III: The Mind/Body Problem

3/10, Wed – 3/12, Fri: Dualism and Physicalism	Asynchronous Lectures on Descartes, <i>Second Meditation</i> , Part 2 and Princess Elisabeth, Correspondence with Descartes, selection
3/15, Mon:	Synchronous Discussion Midterm Exam Due
3/17, Wed – 3/19, Fri: A More Contemporary Debate About Dualism	Asynchronous lectures on J. J. C. Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes," selection and Brie Gertler, "A Defense of Dualism"
3/22, Mon:	Synchronous Discussion

### Part IV: Free Will

3/24, Wed – 3/26, Fri: The Problem of Free Will	Asynchronous lectures on Galen Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything"
3/29, Mon:	Synchronous discussion
3/31, Wed: Compatibilism	Asynchronous lectures on Susan Stebbing, <i>Philosophy and the Physicists</i> , selection
4/2, Fri: Good Friday	NO CLASS
4/5, Mon: Easter Monday	NO CLASS
4/7, Wed – 4/9, Fri: Libertarianism	Asynchronous lectures on Laura Ekstrom, "Indeterminist Free Action"
4/12, Mon:	Synchronous wrap-up and exam review
4/14, Wed:	Essay #2 Due

## **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/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf).

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](https://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. 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.

### **Student Support and Resources**

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at [ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines](https://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](https://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](https://phil.ucalgary.ca). Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit [ucalgary.ca/ssc](https://ucalgary.ca/ssc).

### **Required Technology**

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;

- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

### **Responsible Use of D2L**

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

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/>. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the [University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy](#).

### **Media Recording**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: [https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

### **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](https://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](https://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](https://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-policy.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act ([laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).