



PHIL 201 Lec 01
Mind, Matter, and God
Winter Term 2022
MWF 9:00-9:50, SA 106

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Jeremy Fantl Email: jfantl@ucalgary.ca Office: SS 1238 Office Hours: TBA Office Phone: 403-220-5022	Teaching Assistant: Yudi Huang Email: yudi.huang@ucalgary.ca Office: SS 1237 Office Hours: TBA Office Phone: 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.

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 7th, the second 4-6 pages long (worth 25%), due on the last day of class (Monday, April 11th).
- A take-home **closed-book midterm exam** (worth 20%), due Monday, March 14th, in class.
- 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

1/10, Mon: Intro	Intro
1/12, Wed: What is knowledge?	Plato, <i>Theaetetus</i> , selection
1/14, Fri: The Value of Knowledge	Plato, <i>Meno</i> , selection
1/17, Mon: Testimony and Perception	Mary Astell, <i>A Serious Proposal for the Ladies</i> , pp. 149-153
1/19, Wed: Belief and Certainty	Astell, <i>A Serious Proposal for the Ladies</i> , pp. 158 onward
1/21, Fri: Dreams and Skepticism	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditation I</i>
1/24, Mon: A Response to the Dreaming Argument	Mary Shepherd, <i>Essays on the Perception of an External Universe</i> , selection
1/26, Wed: The Evil Demon	Descartes, <i>Meditation I</i> , cont.
1/28, Fri: The Cogito	Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , selection
1/31, Mon: Clear and Distinct Perception	Descartes, <i>Meditation III</i> , selection
2/2, Wed:	BUFFER DAY
2/4, Fri: The Expository Essay	Essay # 1 Assigned

Part II: Personal Identity

2/7, Mon: Who am I?	Personal Identity, introduced
2/9, Wed: The Psychological View	John Locke, "Of Identity and Diversity," selection
2/11, Fri:	BUFFER DAY
2/14, Mon: Gaps in Consciousness	Catherine Trotter Cockburn, <i>A Defense of Mr. Locke's Essay of Human Understanding</i> , selection
2/16, Wed: The Tabula Rasa	Cockburn, cont.
2/18, Fri: Problems for the Psychological View	Thomas Reid, "Of Identity" and "Of Mr. Locke's Account of our Personal Identity"
2/21-2/25: Term Break	NO CLASSES
2/28, Mon: The Simple Self View	Upanishads, selections
3/2, Wed:	BUFFER DAY
3/4, Fri: The "No Self" View	A Sourcebook on Indian Philosophy, selections Hume, "Of Personal Identity"
3/7, Mon:	BUFFER DAY Essay #1 Due Take-Home Midterm Exam Handed Out

Part III: The Mind/Body Problem

3/9, Wed: Dualism About the Self	Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , selection
3/11, Fri: Mental Causation	Princess Elisabeth, Correspondence with Descartes, selections
3/14, Mon:	BUFFER DAY Take-Home Midterm Exam Due
3/16, Wed: Physicalism about the Mind	J. J. C. Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes," selection
3/18, Fri: A More Contemporary Cartesian Argument for Dualism	Brie Gertler, "A Defense of Dualism"
3/21, Mon: Water vs. Pain	Gertler, "A Defense of Dualism," cont.
3/23, Wed:	BUFFER DAY

Part IV: Free Will

3/25, Fri: Determinism, Fatalism, and Free Will	Galen Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything"
3/28, Mon: Determinism and Free Will	Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything," cont.
3/30, Wed: The Problem of Free Will	Strawson, cont.
4/1, Fri: "Responsibility for" vs. "Responsibility to"	Susan Stebbing, <i>Philosophy and the Physicists</i> , selection
4/4, Mon: Stebbing's Compatibilist Solution	Stebbing, cont.
4/6, Wed: Indeterministic Causation	Laura Ekstrom, "Indeterminist Free Action"
4/8, Fri: Ekstrom's Libertarian Solution	Ekstrom, cont.
4/11, Mon:	Wrap-up and Exam Review 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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.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/current-students/student-services

- 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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising> for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy. Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director jfantl@ucalgary.ca) or David Dick (Honours Advisor dgdick@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/student-services/student-success.

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 <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

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>. 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 (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).