



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 249 Lec 01 – “Morality, Virtue, and Society”

Fall Term 2010

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 12:00-12:50 pm in ST147

Instructor: Noa Latham

Office: SS1250

Phone: 403-220-5528

Email: latham@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: MF 1:30-2:30, or by appointment

TA: Mike Steiner

Office: SS1237

Phone: 403-220-6465

Email: mikesteinersecure@hotmail.com

Office Hours: T 2:30-3:30, or by appt

Course Description

We will begin by discussing the relation between religion and morality. Next we will examine different ideas about what is good for a person. Then we will turn to the two most influential approaches to understanding what actions are right, and their two most famous exponents—John Stuart Mill and Immanuel Kant. Then we will discuss whether morality is objective, and finally we shall look at some practical issues: overpopulation, poverty, and the sanctity of life.

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 handed out in class Oct 1 and due Oct 4 = 20%
- First paper (1200-1800 words, 4-6 pages) due Oct 15 = 25%
- Second paper (1200-1800 words, 4-6 pages) due Dec 10 = 25%
- A Registrar-scheduled final 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+=100, A=96, A-=92, B+=88, B=84, B-=80, C+=76, C=72, C-=68, D+=64, D=60, F=56.

The midterm and papers 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.

Course Website

A course website has been set up on U of C's Blackboard server. You should be automatically signed up if you're registered in the class. Log in with your UCS user ID and password. You can find the website at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>. 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

Sep 13	Introduction	
Sep 15, 17	Religion and Morality	Law
Sep 20	The Good for a Person	Mill
Sep 22		Nozick
Sep 24		Brandt
Sep 27		Finnis
Sep 29, Oct 1		Parfit
Oct 4	Utilitarianism	Mill
Oct 6, 8		Williams
Oct 13	Deontology	Ross
Oct 15, 18, 20, 22		Kant
Oct 25, 27		Langton
Oct 29	Subjectivity	Mackie
Nov 1		Rachels
Nov 3, 5		Smith
Nov 8, 10, 15	Overpopulation	Parfit
Nov 17, 19	Poverty	Singer
Nov 22		McGinn
Nov 24, 26	Animals	Singer
Nov 29		Rachels
Dec 1		U.N. Report
Dec 3	Euthanasia	Rachels
Dec 6		Sullivan
Dec 8, 10		Foot

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.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are Laura Golebiowski (arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan (arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), Lara Schmitz (arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), and Vincent St. Pierre (arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. 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 unless other arrangements have been made in writing and filed with the Department Administrator.

SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).