



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 249 Lec 02- "Morality, Virtue and Society"**

**Fall Term 2010**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:45 AM

**Instructor:** Allen Habib

**Office:** SS 1228

**Phone:** 403-220-6461

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

**Office Hours:** Tue/Thurs 11-12

**TA:** Tim Read

**Office:** SS 1239

**Phone:** 403-220-6465

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

**Office Hours:** Tue 2-3, Wed 3-4

***Course Description:***

This is an introductory survey course in ethical theory. We will read selections from the history of Western thought in ethical (moral) theory, from the ancient Greeks to contemporary authors. We will examine traditional answers to the central questions of moral theory: What is the good? What is a good life? What does justice demand? We will also cover the major moral theories in the Western canon: Virtue Theory, the Divine Command/Natural Law, Sentimentalism, Kantianism, and Utilitarianism.

The first part of the course is an historical survey of moral theories, beginning with the Ancients and moving up through the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In the latter part of the course, we will consider some contemporary ethical debates, e.g. abortion and animal rights.

***Required Text:***

*Ethics: History, Theory and Contemporary Issues*, Cahn and Markie, eds., Oxford University Press, 2005.

***Evaluation:***

There will be three sorts of assignments: papers, glossaries and a mid-term exam.

**Papers:**

- There will be two short (5 page) papers due during the course of the semester.
- The papers will be on assigned topics from the readings.
- Papers will be graded on the basis of the quality of the writing in the paper, among other things.
- The papers will be due in class on the assigned day. Due dates:
  - o **Paper 1 – Thursday, October 21**
  - o **Paper 2 – Tuesday, November 30**

**Glossaries:**

- Students will keep a glossary of new philosophical terms they learn in class, along with brief definitions to be written by the student herself.
- The glossaries will be due in class on the last day of the month.

**Mid-Term:**

- There will be a mid-term exam consisting of both short answer and long answer questions.
- The Mid-Term will be held in class, and will not be open-book.
  - o **The Mid-term exam will be held on Thursday, November 4**

There is **NO** Registrar-scheduled exam for this class.

**Mark Breakdown:**

2 papers – 25% apiece ----- 50%  
 3 Glossaries – 5% apiece -----15%  
 1 Mid Term – 25% -----25%  
 Participation -----10%

The participation grade will be based on participation in the discussions in the tutorial sessions. Students are expected to have read the assigned material and to come to tutorial prepared to engage in discussion. The tutorial instructor will provide you with more detail.

***Grading Method***

95-100 = A+	78-80 = B+	68-70 = C+	58-60 = D+
85-94 = A	75-77 = B	65-67 = C	50-57 = D
81-84 = A-	71-74 = B-	61-64 = C-	< 50 = F

***Policy on Late Assignments***

Late assignments will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the TA instructors or me. If accepted late assignments may be subject to penalties, although no more than 1/3 of a letter grade per day.

## **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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan ([arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)), Lara Schmitz ([arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)), and Vincent St. Pierre ([arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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).