



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 249 Lec 03 – “Morality, Virtue and Society”**

**Fall Term 2012**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** Science A, Room 104; MWF 11:00-11:50

**Instructor:** Dr. Jeremy Fischer

**Office:** SS 1212

**Phone:** 403-220-5989

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

**Office Hours:** M 2:30-3:30, W 3:30-4:30

**TA:** James Leyenaar

**Office:** SS 1242

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**Office Hours:** F 9:30-10:30

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to moral theory. We will be looking at both classic and contemporary writers' answers to questions such as: Why should people be moral? What distinguishes right actions from wrong ones? What distinguishes good persons from bad ones? You will learn to read difficult philosophical texts carefully and analytically, and to write about them in ways that demonstrate clear critical understanding of what you've read.

**Required Texts**

(1) *Leviathan*, by Thomas Hobbes

(2) *The Classical Utilitarians: Bentham and Mill*, ed. by John Troyer.

(3) *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, by Immanuel Kant (translated by James Ellington).

(4) *The Nicomachean Ethics*, by Aristotle (translated by David Ross).

Readings not in the above can be found on Blackboard.

**Evaluation**

There are 400 possible points. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. There is no registrar scheduled final exam.

1. Five Study Question assignments. (15%)

Each study question assignment will consist of three study questions which will be assigned in class. You will receive 2 points per question for handing them in. Then one of the three questions will be selected for more detailed grading and the other 6 points will be awarded for that question with 0 points for unsatisfactory, 2 points for a satisfactory answer, 4 points for a good answer and 6 points for an excellent answer. Study Question assignments are due by the beginning of class on the following due dates and are to be submitted via the “Study Question” section on Blackboard: September 14<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup>, September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

2. Two short essay assignments: due October 5<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup> (15% + 20% = 35%)

The two short essays will consist of your responses to questions that I will distribute in class at least

one week before the essays are due. Each essay should be between three and four pages in length. The second essay will be worth more than the first essay.

3. One in-class midterm exam: (20%)

The midterm exam on November 9<sup>th</sup> will be partly based on the study questions, and will consist of a mixture of very short concept identification questions and short essay questions.

4. Take-home Final Exam: due December 12<sup>th</sup> (30%)

The open-book final exam, submitted via Blackboard, will be partly based on the study questions, and will consist of a mixture of very short concept identification questions and short essay questions.

### Grading Scale

385-400 = A+	340-354 = B+	295-309 = C+	250-264 = D+
370-384 = A	325-339 = B	280-294 = C	235-249 = D
355-369 = A-	310-324 = B-	265-279 = C-	< 235 = F

Students on the borderline will only be bumped up if they have completed all assignments and if the final exam reflects the higher score.

### Policy on Late Assignments

Late Study Question Assignments will not be accepted and exams cannot be taken late, except in the event of a personal emergency. Short essays will be penalized by ten percentage points for each day they are late, except in the event of a personal emergency.

### 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: Sarah Damberger [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca); Hana Kadri [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca); Kelsy Norman [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca); Jack Mills [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.

### **SAFEWALK**

Call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and LRT station. Or use a Campus Help phone.

#### **PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT**

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### **PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2012:**

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