



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 249 Lec 03
Morality, Virtue and Society
Fall Term 2015

Course Outline

Lectures: TuTh 12.30-1.45 in KNB 126

Instructor: Noa Latham

Office: SS1250

Office Phone: 403-220-5528

Email: latham@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Tu 2-3, Th 11-12, or by appt.

TA: Nima Khodabandeh

Office: SS1227

Office Phone: 403-220-6463

Email: nima.khodabandeh@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: W, 9-10 am, or by appt.

Course Description

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

Required Texts

A course package of readings from classical and contemporary sources is available at the University Bookstore.

Course Requirements

A take-home midterm due Oct 5 worth 25% of the final grade, two papers 1200-1500 words (4-5 pages) due Oct 30 and Dec 9, worth 25% of the final grade each, and a registrar-scheduled final exam, worth 25%.

Participation in class discussion in lectures and tutorials by answering questions and offering thoughts and questions of your own 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 the D2L site using the following scale:

A+	98-100	B+	86-89	C+	74-77	D+	62-65
A	94-97	B	82-85	C	70-73	D	58-61
A-	90-93	B-	78-81	C-	66-69	F	0-57

You are not required to complete all assignments to pass the course, but the grade for a missing assignment is 0.

Late Policy

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.

Electronic Devices

Those wishing to use a computer to take notes are requested to sit in the back rows of the class. Cell phones should be switched off for the duration of the class.

Course Website

I shall be using D2L 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 8	Introduction	
Sep 10	Religion and Morality	Steven Law
Sep 15		
Sep 17	The Good for a Person	Mill
Sep 22		Nozick, Brandt
Sep 24		Finnis
Sep 29		Parfit
Oct 1	Utilitarianism	Mill
Oct 6		Williams
Oct 8		Driver
Oct 13	Deontology	Ross
Oct 15		Kant
Oct 20		
Oct 22		Langton
Oct 27	Subjectivity	Mackie
Oct 29		Rachels
Nov 3		Smith
Nov 5	Overpopulation	Parfit
Nov 10	Poverty	Singer
Nov 12	Reading day. No class.	
Nov 17		
Nov 19	Animals	Singer
Nov 24		Rachels
Nov 26		U.N. Report
Dec 1	Euthanasia	Rachels
Dec 3		Sullivan
Dec 8		Foot

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. 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 correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and

accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's online learning management system. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning– Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. 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 or teaching assistant.

Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2015:

Jeremy Fantl (Undergrad Director) jfantl@ucalgary.ca

Reid Buchanan buchanan@ucalgary.ca

Ann Levey (Honours Program Advisor) levey@ucalgary.ca

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact

Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)