



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 249 Lec 01  
Morality, Virtue and Society  
Winter Term 2018

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: MWF 10-10.50 in SA 104**

<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Noa Latham</b>	<b>TA:</b>	<b>Darren Corpe</b>
<b>Office:</b>	<b>SS1250</b>	<b>Office:</b>	<b>SS1237</b>
<b>Office Phone:</b>	<b>220-5528</b>	<b>Office Phone:</b>	<b>220-6465</b>
<b>Email:</b>	<b>latham@ucalgary.ca</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>darren.corpe@ucalgary.ca</b>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>M 1-2, F 2-3, and by appt.</b>	<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>Tu 12-1, and by appt.</b>

**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 advocates—John Stuart Mill and Immanuel Kant. Then we will discuss whether morality is objective, and finally we will look at some practical issues: overpopulation, poverty, animals and euthanasia.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Learning Objectives:**

Throughout the course you will be attempting to come to your own conclusions regarding the issues discussed by assessing arguments for and against the views presented in the readings. You will be developing your ability to comprehend, interpret, and analyse complex sources, as well as to recognise and construct convincing arguments both in writing and orally.

**Required Readings:**

A selection of readings from classical and contemporary sources is available under Content on D2L.

**Course Requirements:**

A take-home midterm due Feb 2 worth 20% of the final grade, two papers 1200-1500 words (4-5 pages) due Mar 1 and Apr 13, worth 25% of the final grade each, and a registrar-scheduled final exam, worth 30%.

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. The final exam is to be submitted digitally. 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 completing your assignment in on time you must discuss the problem with me or your T.A. before the due date. If you have finished your paper but are having difficulty in getting it to the dropbox on time you may email me a copy before 4pm on the due date and drop off a hard copy the next day.

### ***Electronic Devices***

Those wishing to use a computer to take notes are requested to sit in the back half of the classroom. Cell phones should be used only to access readings through D2L.

### ***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**

Jan 8	Introduction	
Jan 10	Religion and Morality	Steven Law
Jan 12		
Jan 15		
Jan 17	The Good for a Person	Mill
Jan 19		Nozick
Jan 22		Brandt
Jan 24		Finnis
Jan 26		Parfit
Jan 29		
Jan 31	Utilitarianism	Mill
Feb 2		
Feb 5		Williams
Feb 7		
Feb 9	Deontology	Ross
Feb 12		
Feb 14		Kant
Feb 16		
	Winter Holiday	
Feb 26		Langton
Feb 28		
Mar 2	Subjectivity	Mackie
Mar 5		Rachels
Mar 7		Smith

Mar 9		
Mar 12	Overpopulation	Parfit
Mar 14		
Mar 16	Poverty	Singer
Mar 19		
Mar 21		
Mar 23	Animals	Singer
Nov 26		
Mar 28		Rachels
	Good Friday Holiday	
Apr 2		U.N. Report
Apr 4	Euthanasia	Rachels
Apr 6		Sullivan
Apr 9		Foot
Apr 11		
Apr 13		

## IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

### 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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

### D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

### 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](mailto: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 Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl ([jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)), Allen Habib ([anhajib@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anhajib@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehanty ([mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mdelehan@ucalgary.ca)).

### **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 Department Manager, Tram Nguyen ([tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca)). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

### **Writing**

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15- minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc) .

### **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.

### **Internet and Electronic Communication Devices**

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy

### **Emergency Evacuation:**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> . Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Other Helpful Contacts**

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca) , [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>