



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 249 Lec 01  
“Morality Virtue and Society”  
Winter Term 2020

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 1:00 – 1:50 KNB 126 (Online Via D2L and email as of March 16, 2020)

Instructor: Ish Haji

Office: SS 1232

Email: [ihaji@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ihaji@ucalgary.ca)

Office Hours (online): MWF 11:00 – 12:00

TA: Nicholas Kerklaan

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Office Hours (online): TF 11:30 – 12:30

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to moral philosophy. There are different sorts of moral appraisal. Some concern the evaluation of actions; for example, what makes right acts right? Others concern the evaluation of character. When is a person virtuous? Yet others concern the evaluation of persons. Under what conditions, for instance, is a person blameworthy for something? Still others concern the assessment of lives. When is a life good in itself for a person? We will examine moral theories of each of these types of appraisal.

**Prerequisites:** N/A

**Course Learning Outcomes: Students should be able to**

1. Distinguish among different sorts of moral appraisal including appraisals of right and wrong, good and evil, virtue and vice, and moral responsibility.
2. Explain key ethical concepts, such as being obligatory, being intrinsically good, and being morally responsible.
3. Read and comprehend philosophical texts in ethics.
4. Critically analyze ethical issues to be discussed.
5. Write a convincing argument for or against fundamental ethical issues, such as whether pleasure is the sole intrinsic good or whether responsibility requires freedom to do otherwise, to be discussed.
6. Engage in constructive oral argumentation regarding relevant concepts, principles, or theories introduced in the course.

**Required Texts (including electronic resources)**

(1) Handout and notes posted on D2L.

(2) Online readings posted on D2L.

**Course Assessment**

There will be four quizzes, the first (in-class) worth 20% of the total grade, the second (online) 30% of the total grade, and the last two (online) each worth 15% of the total grade. In addition, there will be one paper, to be submitted in class, worth 20% of the total grade. *Please note the following. Given the transition to online instruction and assessment commencing Monday, March 16, you will take quizzes 2, 3, and 4 online.* Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in evaluation. Writing should be clear, coherent, and to the point. There will be *no* provisions for “extra-credit.” There will be *no* borderline adjustments to your final mean score for the course. For example, if your overall score (89%) is 1% short of an A (90%), your overall grade will *not* be changed from an A- to an A. A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole. You may use a computer to access handouts or readings for the course and to take notes.

## Tentative Assignment Dates:

Quiz 1 (in class, closed-book)	Friday, February 07
Paper 1 (to be submitted in class)	Friday, March 06
Quiz 2 (online)	Friday, March 20
Quiz 3 (online)	Friday, April 03
Quiz 4 (online)	Wednesday, April 15

**\*\*Please screenshot the D2L submitted field or sent email when submitting work electronically in case of systems issues.**

## Conversion of Number Grades into Letter Grades:

A+ = 100-96; A = 95-90; A- = 89-85; B+ = 84-80; B = 79-75; B- = 74-71; C+ = 70-67; C = 66-62; C- = 61-59; D+ = 58-54; D = 53-50; F = 49-0.

## Late Assignments:

No late papers will be accepted and you will not be able to take a quiz at any time other than the time at which it is scheduled, without official and adequate documentation (see Absence or Missed Course Assessments below).

There is no registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.

## **IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

### **Academic Accommodations**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf).

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: [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf). Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

### **Absence or Missed Course Assessments**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html)

### **Student Support and Resources**

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at [ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines](http://ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines)

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information

- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

### **Academic Advising**

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit [phil.ucalgary.ca](https://phil.ucalgary.ca). Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca)).

### **Writing Assessment and Support**

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit [ucalgary.ca/ssc](https://ucalgary.ca/ssc).

### **Online Resources and Electronic Devices**

Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit [ucalgary.service-now.com/it](https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it) for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. 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.

### **Academic Misconduct/Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](https://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

### **University Policies**

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf)

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at [ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip](https://ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip). The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act ([laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).