



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 249 Lec 02
Morality, Virtue and Society
Winter 2022
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45 ENE243

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Dr. Shelley Smith
Email: sasmi@ucalgary.ca
Office: SS 1234
Office Hours: TBD; Zoom via appointment

Teaching Assistant Name: Sophia Kimiagari
Email: mansooreh.kimiagari@ucalgary.ca
Office: SS 1227
Office Hours: TBD

COURSE DELIVERY

Lectures: Lectures will be in-person unless directed otherwise. If any period of time is directed to be via virtual delivery, lectures will be synchronous via Zoom Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:45am. Lectures will not be recorded, therefore plan your schedules around attendance either way.

Tutorials: Tutorial delivery will be confirmed prior to the start of classes January 10th.

COMMUNICATION

Office hours times and format (in-person or Zoom) will be confirmed the first week of class.

Email communication should be directed to the TA, Sophia, in the first instance. If necessary, Sophia will forward queries to the instructor. **Please DO NOT email both Sophia and Shelley in the same email.** Please allow 24 hours for an email response, and do not expect email responses during the evening or on weekends. Email questions that are answered in the course outline, or on any posted document on D2L (such as assignment/test guidelines) will not be answered. If your question requires a long answer, the TA or instructor may request a Zoom meeting instead.

PREREQUISITE(S)

There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE INFORMATION

This course is an introduction to moral philosophy. We will examine what is it to 'live a good life' and the role of ethics in a good life. There are different sorts of moral appraisals. Some concern the evaluation of actions, some the evaluation of consequences, and some the evaluation of the moral agent themselves. In this course we will examine and critically evaluate moral theories of each of these types of appraisals. We will also consider the application of these theories to certain contemporary moral issues and examine the question of moral responsibility (when agents are either blameworthy or praiseworthy for something).

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Distinguish among different sorts of moral appraisal including appraisals of right and wrong, good and bad, virtue and vice, and moral responsibility
- Explain key ethical concepts, such as moral obligation, intrinsic goodness, and moral responsibility
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze philosophical texts in ethics
- Ability to critically evaluate moral theories and contemporary issues in ethics
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

More resources on creating your course outlines (including sample and checklist):
taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/course-design/resources

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Required text (available in the bookstore): *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems* (5th Edition) Russ Shafer-Landau (editor), Oxford University Press. (2020) ISBN-13: 9780190058241

An e-book is available for rental: e-isbn: 9780190058258

Additional readings may be posted to D2L.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Course Assessment

All course components are to be completed via D2L (online quizzes, or assignment dropbox) prior to the due date/time. It is the student's responsibility to ensure timely and successful submissions.

- **Online Quizzes (5) worth 50% (10% each):** available online via D2L quizzes, due on the following dates:
 - **Quiz 1:** due Friday, January 28th at 11:30pm
 - **Quiz 2:** due Friday, February 11th at 11:30pm
 - **Quiz 3:** due Monday, February 28th at 11:30pm
 - **Quiz 4:** due Monday, March 14th at 11:30pm
 - **Quiz 5:** due Friday, April 1st, at 11:30pm
- **Take-home midterm test worth 20%:** questions available online via D2L assignment dropbox Thursday, March 3rd at 11:00am and due Monday, March 7th at 11:30pm
- **Take-home final test worth 30%:** questions available online via D2L assignment dropbox Tuesday, April 12th at 11:00am and due Tuesday, April 19th at 11:30pm

There will not be a registrar scheduled final exam for this course.

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is NOT essential for passing this course as a whole.

Late submissions will be accepted with appropriate documentation and prior arrangement with the instructor. I know that we remain in trying times, and I will work with you as circumstances require, but you must contact me **prior to** due dates to agree an extension.

If no arrangements are agreed prior to the due date, a late penalty of 1/3 letter grade a day will apply (i.e. an 'A' assignment a day late will be given an 'A-', two days late a 'B+', etc.) to a maximum of 5 days late.

Quizzes (50% - 10% each)

Quizzes are individual assessment to be completed at home and are timed (You may start the quiz when it is most convenient for you – but once started it must be completed within the time limit).

Quizzes will be available approximately one week prior to the due date. The format of the quiz will comprise a variety of question types and may include: true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, and matching. Accurate spelling is required for the fill in the blank questions – and accurate spelling is your responsibility. Quizzes are automatically graded.

Midterm and final tests (20/30% each)

Midterm and final tests will comprise written questions – long answer and/or essay questions. Study questions will be posted the week prior to the tests being posted on D2L. Further guidelines will be provided in class and posted to D2L.

Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the UCalgary Academic Calendar:

A: Excellent – superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.

B: Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.

C: Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.

D: Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent course in the same subject.

F: Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

The quality of writing WILL be a component in grading.

In all written work, proper and complete citations are extremely important. See section below “Academic Misconduct/Honesty”.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is important to success in this class. It is always a good idea to have peer group support – get to know a couple of your peers. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to review the course materials missed (textbook readings, powerpoint notes, videos) and obtain class notes from a peer. Neither the TA nor the instructor are able to summarize lectures for you via email or Zoom.

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.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. 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.

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services

- 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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising> for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy. Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director jfantl@ucalgary.ca) or David Dick (Honours Advisor dgdick@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. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success.

Required Technology

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L

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

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/>. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the [University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy](#).

Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

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.

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>. 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 (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).