



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 264 Lec 01
How Do We Know?
Winter 2020
Online

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Dr Megan Delehanty (she/her)

Email: mdelehan@ucalgary.ca

Office: SS1240

Office Hours: Tuesdays 15:00-17:00 , via Skype. Sign up at <https://megandelehanty.youcanbook.me>

Teaching Assistant Name: Wei Dong Sun (he/him)

Email: weidong.sun1@ucalgary.ca

Office: SS1242

Office Hours: TBD

COURSE INFORMATION

An investigation of belief, knowledge, and error in everyday life and the sciences, including discussion of the nature of knowledge; patterns of valid reasoning and sources of error; the influence of bias on belief and knowledge; scientific reasoning and theory building; the distinction between science and pseudoscience.

PREREQUISITE(S)

There are no prerequisites for this course

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, traditions, and views
- Deep knowledge of one central area of philosophical inquiry
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

Links to readings and other materials required will be posted on D2L.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Assessment Components and Grading Schemes

This course will use anonymous grading procedures. All written work should be identified **ONLY** by your student number on a separate last page. (This applies both to work submitted electronically as well as hard copy.)

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

- 50% Homework/In class assignments (10 assignments X 5% each. There will be 12 assignments during the term, of which your 10 best scores will count. This means that you can miss 2 for any reason without it impacting your score. They will be submitted to the D2L dropbox)
- 5% Final project proposal (due on D2L March 26 by 23:59)
- 10% Final project outline (due on D2L April 9 by 23:59,)
- 35% Final project (due on D2L April 24 by 23:59) 1250-1500 word case study looking at a contemporary issue using the ideas and tools covered in this class (e.g. Do claims about climate change involve certain forms of epistemic injustice? Do arguments about the lack of “proof” that vaccines are safe rely on a flawed understanding of proof?)

Letter Grade Conversion Table

A+ 96 –100 %	B+ 81-85 %	C+ 66-70 %	D+ 51-55 %
A 91-95 %	B 76-80 %	C 61-65%	D 46-50 %
A- 86-90 %	B- 71-75 %	C- 56-60 %	F 0- 45 %

- Grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number (XX.49 and lower will be rounded down; XX.50 and higher will be rounded up).
- This course will use anonymous grading procedures. All written work should be identified ONLY by your student number on a separate last page. (This applies both to work submitted electronically and as a hard copy.)
- Students are responsible for checking D2L for updates on the course.
- No particular component must be passed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.
- Writing and the evaluation thereof is an important component of this course.
- There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.
- Late assignments will lose 5% per day (or portion thereof) unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g. a sustained period of illness). They may also not receive comments in a timely manner.

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/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: 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

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at 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 for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

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

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 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.

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

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. 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) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).