

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 315 Lecture 01
“Philosophy in Literature”

Winter 2011
Course Outline

Instructor: Elizabeth Brake
Office: 1220 Social Sciences
Office hours: MW 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Phone: 220-3163
E-mail: brake@ucalgary.ca
Lectures: MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m., Social Sciences 541

Texts:

Plato, *The Republic*, Penguin Classics, 2003 (reprint)
Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw and other stories*, Oxford World's Classics, OUP
Shakespeare, *King Lear*, Oxford World's Classics, OUP
Jane Smiley, *A Thousand Acres*, Anchor 2003 edition
Course Reader (available from the bookstore)

Course description:

The course will focus on issues in ethics and epistemology (the theory of knowledge) as exemplified in works by Henry James, William Shakespeare, and Jane Smiley. We will read *King Lear* (in conjunction with philosophical works by Plato, Descartes, and Stanley Cavell) as addressing problems of scepticism, *The Turn of the Screw* (with works by Sartre and Robert Pippin) as illustrating ethical questions, and *A Thousand Acres* (with work by John Stuart Mill) as examining feminist issues. We will discuss the relationship between philosophy and literature, with special attention to work by Plato, Aristotle, and Martha Nussbaum. The course will emphasise careful reading of philosophical texts.

Assessment:

<u>Weight</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due dates</u>
20% each	Two essays	January 31, March 21
25%	In-class test	February 18
10%	In-class test	April 15
25%	Final paper	April 18

There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

To pass the class, you must complete all assignments. Detailed instructions will be given for each assignment. *Late work* will be penalised 3 points a day, unless there is a documented excuse such as illness, a court date, or serious family problems. Quality of writing will be a factor in grading.

Assignments handed in outside class must be placed in the box on the 12th floor of Social Sciences before 4:00 p.m. Do not e-mail assignments. *Plagiarism* will not be tolerated. Any instance thereof – downloading papers from the Internet, copying or paraphrasing material from a book, web-site, or a fellow student – will be reported and I will assign an F for the course or the assignment.

As stated in the University Calendar, letter grades reflect the following standards:

- 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 courses in the same subject.
- F: Fail — unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

I will use the following scale:

A+	97-100	A	93-96	A-	90-92
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	60-66		
F	59 and below				

I will use Blackboard to store grades, to make announcements, and to post course documents. Log in at <<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>> using your U of C e-mail username and password.

I will accommodate students with disabilities. Please contact the *Disability Resource Centre* (220-8237).

COURSE READER CONTENTS

- 1) René Descartes [1596-1650], *A Discourse on Method; Meditations and Principles*, trans. John Veitch (London: Everyman's Library, 1986), pp. 71-94. *Meditations on the First Philosophy* was originally published in France in 1641.
- 2) Aristotle [384-322 BC], *The Art of Poetry*, in *Aristotle*, translated and edited by Philip Wheelwright (New York: The Odyssey Press, 1951), pp. 296-312.
- 3) Stanley Cavell, 'The Avoidance of Love: A Reading of *King Lear*', in *Must We Mean What We Say* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987), pp. 267-340.
- 4) John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty, with the Subjection of Women, and Chapters on Socialism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), 117-145.
- 5) Jean-Paul Sartre, 'Existentialism is a Humanism', from *Ethics*, ed. Cahn and Markie (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), pp. 460-467.
- 6) Robert Pippin, *Henry James and Modern Moral Life* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 89-92, 114-125.
- 7) Martha Nussbaum, *Love's Knowledge* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990), pp. 1-53.

Reading schedule:

week of Jan 10	Justice and metaphysics in Plato's <i>Republic</i>
week of Jan 17	Plato on philosophy and poetry; Aristotle on tragedy
week of Jan 24	Knowledge and doubt in Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
week of Jan 31	<i>King Lear</i>
January 31	ESSAY 1 DUE
week of Feb 7	<i>King Lear</i> and Stanley Cavell on <i>Lear</i>
week of Feb 14	Stanley Cavell on scepticism in Shakespeare, cont.
February 18	IN-CLASS TEST
week of Feb 21	READING WEEK – NO CLASS
week of Feb 28	John Stuart Mill – <i>The Subjection of Women</i>
week of March 7	A feminist <i>Lear</i>: Jane Smiley's <i>A Thousand Acres</i>
week of March 14	Existentialism and “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”
week of March 21	Henry James, <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>
March 21	ESSAY 2 DUE
week of March 28	Robert Pippin on James: was James an Idealist?
week of April 4	Nussbaum on philosophy and literature
week of April 11	Nussbaum on philosophy and literature
April 15	IN-CLASS TEST

Books on reserve (ask at reserve desk):

Aristotle. *Poetics*.
Cavell, Stanley. *Pursuits of Happiness*.
Cavell, Stanley. *Disowning Knowledge in 6 Plays of Shakespeare*.
Descartes, Rene. *Meditations*.
Farrell, Susan. *Jane Smiley's A Thousand Acres*.
James, Henry. *The Turn of the Screw*.
James, Henry. *What Maisie Knew*.
James, Henry. *Daisy Miller*.
Nussbaum, Martha. *Love's Knowledge*.
Pippin, Robert. *Henry James and Modern Moral Theory*.
Plato. *Republic*.
Putt, Gorley. *A Preface to Henry James*.
Shakespeare, William. *King Lear*.
Smiley, Jane. *A Thousand Acres*.

Further suggested reading/viewing:

Stanley Cavell and King Lear. Cavell also writes on *Othello*, *Coriolanus*, *Hamlet*, and *The Winter's Tale* (in *Disowning Knowledge*). His *Pursuits of Happiness* explores the same philosophical problems in the context of Hollywood screwball comedies of the 1930's and 40's: 'The Lady Eve', 'It Happened One Night', 'Bringing Up Baby', 'The Philadelphia Story', 'His Girl Friday', 'Adam's Rib', and 'The Awful Truth'.

Henry James: *Daisy Miller* and *What Maisie Knew* are good starting points to get to know James better. Other good choices are *The Portrait of a Lady*, *Washington Square*, *The Golden Bowl*, and *The Wings of the Dove*. Gorley Putt's *A Preface to Henry James* contains biographical material and pictures as well as discussions of the works.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as **an extremely serious academic offence**, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are Laura Golebiowski (arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan (arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), Lara Schmitz (arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), and Vincent St. Pierre (arts4@su.ucalgary.ca) .

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. 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 unless other arrangements have been made in writing and filed with the Department Administrator.

SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).