



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 329 Lec 001**  
**"Business Ethics"**

**Winter Term 2017**  
**Course Outline**

**Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:00-10:50 in SA 015**

**Instructor: David G. Dick**

**Office: SS 1224**

**Office Phone: 403-220-6434**

**Email: [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)**

**Office Hours: Mondays, 1-3 pm; and by appointment**

**Course Description**

This course aims to simultaneously introduce moral philosophy and the way it can be applied to practical problems and professional disciplines taking business ethics as its example. By the end of the course, students should understand several prominent moral theories well enough to apply them to novel ethical problems that arise in the business world and beyond. The course will cover units on moral theory, specific ethical issues in business, and moral and philosophical issues surrounding money.

**Prerequisites: None**

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Students in this course will gain

- A broad knowledge of moral philosophy and how it applies to business issues;
- An ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources;
- An ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- An ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

**Required/Recommended Texts (including electronic resources):**

*A Companion to Business Ethics*

Frederick, Robert E. (editor), Blackwell Publishing, 2002.

ISBN 13: 978-1405101028

*Philosophy 329 Coursepack*, available at the University Bookstore

Additional materials will be indicated via the D2L site for this class.

Available at: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/>

## Course Assessment

Participation:	5%	
Weekly Questions:	10%	
First Paper:	25%	Due: Wednesday, February 8th
Midterm:	25%	Friday, March 17th
Second Paper:	35%	Due: Monday, April 10th

This course has no Registrar administered final exam, only a final paper.

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

The final grade will be based on the credit accumulated from the various assignments, so it is mathematically possible to pass the course without turning in any particular assignment. But this strategy is not recommended.

### Participation:

I want you to be engaged with the material and the class, so I'm rewarding you for giving me evidence that you are. This evidence can come in many forms, such as attending and participating in the class and its discussions, visiting me in office hours to discuss course material, or sending me an email with a good idea or question when one comes to you.

### Weekly Questions:

Each week, I'd like you to submit a question based on the reading for the day that you submit the question. The question you write should convince me that you've read the day's reading, at least well enough to be confused by it. I'm not kidding: confusion is a philosophical heuristic, it either helps you identify a place where you don't understand, or where the argument doesn't make sense. Either one of these counts as philosophical progress. These questions and their explanations need not be any longer than about half a page. (I'll post an example to D2L.)

Here's how this works: For each week of the term, pick one day that week and write a question based on the reading assigned for that day. Then, submit a hard copy version of this question at the beginning of class where that reading will be discussed.

Weekly questions are only accepted when submitted in person at the beginning of each class, and only in hard copy. Barring extraordinary and documented serious emergencies, missed weekly questions cannot be made up.

There are 13 weeks in the semester (including this first one) but you only owe me 11 weekly questions for the term. It's entirely up to you which weeks you'd like to pass on. Extra weekly questions beyond this 11 will be read, but will not count for any extra credit.

Weekly questions can be hand written, but keeping an electronic file with your weekly questions can be helpful both for studying and for keeping track of how many you've turned in.

### Midterms and Papers:

Will be in the form of philosophical essays written in response to topics I will distribute in advance of the days the papers are due or the midterms are given. Further instructions will be included when those topics are distributed.

## **Grading Method**

All evaluated material will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the standard 4.0 scale:

4.3 – A+	3.3 – B+	2.3 – C+	1.3 – D+	0.0 – F
4.0 – A	3.0 – B	2.0 – C	1.0 – D	
3.7 – A–	2.7 – B–	1.7 – C–		

The arithmetic that will calculate your final grade will follow this formula:

$$\frac{(\text{Partic.}) \cdot 0.05 + (\text{W. Questions}) \cdot 0.10 + (\text{1st Paper}) \cdot 0.25 + (\text{Midterm}) \cdot 0.25 + (\text{2nd Paper}) \cdot 0.35}{\text{Final Grade}}$$

## **Policy on Late Assignments**

Weekly questions and the midterm exam are to be submitted in class and will not be accepted late or outside of class.

Late term papers are accepted, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period late. So, an A- paper submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-. Once a paper is late, it should be submitted via email (to me at [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) as soon as it is ready.

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

### **Academic Honesty**

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, 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**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

### **D2L Help**

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> 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)), Reid Buchanan ([buchanan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanan@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, Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@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 Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>