



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 330 Lec 01
Philosophy of Money
Spring 2021

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Eric Bohner
Email: eric.bohner1@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: by appointment

COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION

There will be a hybrid delivery system of course content. Lecture notes and/or recordings will be posted weekly on D2L. In addition, we will meet twice per week via Zoom, Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30am-11:30am. The Zoom meetings have been scheduled and can be found on D2L.

PREREQUISITE(S)

There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE INFORMATION

This course may teach you several valuable Get Rich Quick schemes that can help you become the next Jeff Bezos or Elon Musk. Or, it may not. We will, however, definitely discuss money, the marketplace, and some of the philosophical questions that arise because of the way in which we conduct trade. What is for trade? Should it be for trade? How is the price agreed upon? Who benefits when you short sell a stock, and who loses?

Weekly course topics:

- Week 1 (May 5th meeting) – The Invention of Money
- Week 2 – Money and Values
- Week 3 – Poverty and Wealth Distribution
- Week 4 – The value of the marketplace
- Week 5 – Exploitative markets(?) (Healthcare, Sexual Labour)
- Week 6 – Market Manipulators (Price fixing and GME)
- Week 7 – Wrap Up

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students in this course will gain:

- Broad knowledge of philosophy and how it applies to money;
- An ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources;
- An ability to write a convincing argument that takes account of alternative positions;
- An ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

There are no required textbooks that you must purchase. All reading material will be accessible through D2L in the Content section.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Assessment Components and Grading Schemes

There are five components in this course that will be graded:

Market Watch Assignment (Due May 22nd at midnight)

This assignment includes both collaborative and individual parts. For this assignment, we will follow a selected list of securities (stocks or ETFs) traded on the NASDAQ or NYSE that we will decide upon at our first meeting. Together, you will watch for trends and news that may be helpful in being able to predict price fluctuations. These may include (but are not limited to): overall market trends (e.g. direction of QQQ or SPY), company news (new product release, etc.), earnings reports, SEC filings, major political news (Trump tweets?), /r/wallstreetbets opinions, or simply general trends in the stock (major resistance or support breakdowns, etc.). I intend for this to be a collaborative effort, and students should feel free to post about their favourite stocks on our watchlist to the discord server that you will all be invited to. All of this information will be freely available to everyone throughout the entire process.

After gathering data for two weeks, you will provide a writeup on your favourite stock from the list that will include speculation about what made the stock move in the way that it did, whether the movement was predictable, and if it moved the *appropriate* amount (e.g. did the change in the stock price accurately reflect the company's evaluation?). This assignment is worth 30% of your overall grade.

Disclaimer: At no point during this assignment will I, or any student, be allowed to recommend that anyone purchase or sell any of the stocks that we are following based on the information that we are sharing.

Weekly reading questions

At the end of each week, you will be required to submit a thoughtful question about that week's readings through D2L. The question may be about something you didn't understand or need clarification on, thoughts about where the author could have expanded (and how they might have done so), etc. These questions are all pass/fail, and are worth a total of 10% of your overall grade.

Weekly Quizzes

In addition to the reading questions, you will complete a short quiz on D2L based on that week's readings. The quiz is intended to test your understanding of the readings. The quizzes are worth a total of 10% of your overall grade.

Papers (Due May 29th and June 17th)

Both paper assignments will be submitted to the appropriate dropbox folder on D2L.

First Paper (Draft)

In your first paper assignment you will write a short (1000 words or less) paper on a topic of your choice. In it, you will discuss a philosophical issue associated with money, preferably from the list of weekly topics that we will be discussing. You may also choose to write on something specific that you are interested in, but which we are not discussing in the course. Paper topics of this sort must be approved by me first. This draft of the paper is worth 20% of your overall grade.

Final Paper (Final Draft)

The final paper will be an improved version of the first submission. After receiving feedback (and, presumably, having learned more during the course of the term), you will update your paper. You will have 1500 words to submit a polished version of your paper, updating your arguments based on the feedback from the first draft. This draft of the paper is worth 30% of your overall grade.

Grading Scheme

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|--------------------|-----|---|
| Weekly Questions: | 10% | Due every Saturday at 11:59pm (total 6) |
| Weekly Quizzes: | 10% | Due every Saturday at 11:59pm (total 6) |
| Market Watch: | 30% | Due May 22, 2021 at 11:59pm |
| Paper Draft: | 20% | Due May 29, 2021 at 11:59pm |
| Final Paper Draft: | 30% | Due June 17, 2021 at 11:59pm |

Everything will be graded as a percentage and then converted to a letter grade:

100 ≥ A+ ≥ 95 > A ≥ 85 > A- ≥ 80
80 > B+ ≥ 77 > B ≥ 73 > B- ≥ 70
70 > C+ ≥ 67 > C ≥ 63 > C- ≥ 60
60 > D+ ≥ 57 > D ≥ 50 > F

Exams

- **There are no scheduled exams in 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.

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. 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/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. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

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