

PHIL 345 L01
“Issues in Environmental Ethics”
Spring, 2021

Course Outline

Instructor: Ron Wilburn (B.A. from U.C.L.A., Ph.D. from University of Pennsylvania)
Office: In the electronic stratosphere
Home Phone: (403) 283-5835
Email: Use the D2L email function.
Office Hours: No office hours as such. Contact me through email and we can set up an individualized appointment time at your convenience.

Course Description

A seminar in environmental philosophy focusing on the theory of environmental sustainability and obligations to future generations. We will canvas relevant moral theory in the course of examining climate change. Our overriding question: what dilemmas does this issue pose for our obligations to future generations.

Prerequisites: None

Course Learning Outcomes

- Broad knowledge of pertinent moral theories of rights and obligations;
- Deep knowledge of one central area of philosophical inquiry (i.e., issues concerning environmental obligations to future generations);
- 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 Texts

Reasons and Persons, Derik Parfit
Justice as Fairness: A Restatement, John Rawls

Course Assessment

This course will be graded using a “contract system” designed to give students maximum control over their own grades.

- 3 short essay exams (to be taken on D2L).
- 3 paper assignments (8-10 pages each, to be submitted through D2L).

Note: a pass or “P” = 75% or above available point credit for an assignment.

- To achieve a D in the class, students must complete all three essay exams satisfactorily (P/F).
- To achieve a C in the class, students must complete all three essay exams satisfactorily (P/F) and complete one paper satisfactorily (P/F).
- To achieve a B in the class, students must complete all three essay exams satisfactorily (P/F) and complete two papers satisfactorily (P/F)

- To achieve an A in the class, students must complete all three essay exams satisfactorily (P/F) and complete three papers satisfactorily (P/F).

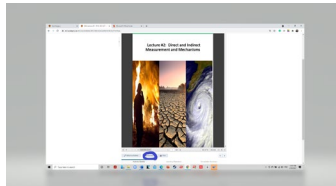
“Plusses” and “Minuses” are determined as a function of student class participation, as indicated by the level of interaction you engage in with the rest of the class and to then comment on the posts of others. through the discussion function on D2L. This is necessarily a somewhat intangible grading factor. But the more you contribute to conversation (I would suggest no less than three response posts in addition to your original post), the more brownie points you get. The less you contribute, the fewer brownie points you get.

Organization of course: Repeating some of what I say above, for emphasis, the following schedule is organized around a simple organizational scheme. Each week you are asked to

1) Read the assigned material.

2) Then listen to and look at the correlated narrated PowerPoint presentation. In these presentations, I review and elaborate on the materials you have read. In these lectures, PowerPoint slides often contain more material than is covered in the readings. My goal in narration is to summarize the content of each slide as succinctly and smoothly as possible for the benefit of those who prefer a course lecture format. If you find the sound of my droning voice too much to bear, you may skip said voice by simply turning off the narration. However, if you do so, make sure that do so responsibly. To this end, you might want to at least run through some of the narration to see if I review stuff that you already completely understood from your reading. Ideally, I think that it is wise for you to listen to all of my lectures. However, you may use your informed editorial judgment when doing so, especially if you are pressed for time. Note: To use the lecture slides, you need the ability to download and play PowerPoint slides.

To get these PowerPoint slides, you need to do the following (take, for example, the second lecture): In the module titled “Philosophy 345 Course Lectures, you will see the sub-module titled “Philosophy 345 Lecture #2: Direct and Indirect Measurement and Mechanisms.” Click on it. At this point, the following will come up. (Obviously, you can enlarge this for visibility.)



To download the narrated PowerPoint, click on the circled “download” button in blue. The PowerPoint display which appears in the box below these words will scroll. However, you will not hear any narration unless you actually download the file by clicking on the “download” button.

3) Think about what you have read and formulate and post a discussion question. These responses are visible to me and all your classmates. What I look for in your submissions is a reasonable and honest effort.

Note that you receive additional credit for any original post which is especially thoughtful and substantive. Note that such “substantiveness” generally requires extra length. Also, note that a good way to achieve such substantiveness is by interacting with your fellow students by thoughtfully responding to their discussion posts. Your postings and interactions determine your “participation” score, on the basis of which I assign plusses and minuses.

4) Exams and papers will be assigned more or less evenly throughout the course.

General Date Milestones and Deadlines for the Term:

Spring Intersession 2021	
Start of Term	Wednesday, May 5
End of Term	Friday, June 25
Start of Classes	Wednesday, May 5
End of Classes	Thursday, June 17
Start of Exams	Monday, June 21
End of Exams	Wednesday, June 23
Last day to drop a class without financial penalty*	Tuesday, May 11
Last day to add or swap a course	Tuesday, May 11
Last day to withdraw from a course**	Thursday, June 17
End of refund period	Tuesday, May 11
Tuition and Fee Payment Deadline	Friday, May 14
Spring Convocation	Monday-Friday, May 31-June 4

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).