



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 347.02
Contemporary Moral Problems
Fall 2021
Online Course

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Chris Framarin (he/him)

Email: chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

Office: SS 1236 (I will not hold in-person office hours this semester – Zoom only)

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:00 – 3:00 (Zoom), or by appointment (Zoom)

Office Phone: (403) 220-5532 (email is by far the best way to contact me)

COURSE INFORMATION:

Format:

This is an online course. All lectures for the course are asynchronous – students can view these videos at any time once they are posted to D2L. There are three review sessions, however, that are synchronous. These will take place on Zoom. See the dates, times, and details below under ‘Assessment Components’ and ‘Review Sessions’. Office hours are on Zoom.

Course Description:

In this course, we will review and evaluate debates over contemporary moral issues. Topics include: genetic enhancement, performance-enhancing drugs, world hunger, obligations between parents and children, and others.

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will understand debates and arguments relating to contemporary moral issues.

Students will accurately and charitably extract arguments from authors’ work.

Students will evaluate arguments of other authors fairly.

Students will construct convincing arguments in support of theses.

Students will communicate ideas and arguments in writing and in discussions in a respectful, productive way.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

1. Cahn, Steven M. and Forcehimes, Andrew T. 2017. *Exploring Moral Problems* (Oxford: OUP). Available as an e-book. See 'News' for this course on D2L for the link to the order page.
2. Journal Articles posted to D2L.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Assessment Components:

First Exam (Thursday, Oct. 7, 12:00 a.m to 11:59 p.m.) 30%

Second Exam (Tuesday, Nov. 2, 12:00 a.m to 11:59 p.m.) 30%

Students will be given two short essay topics on the exams, and have to answer both. Short essay answers are typically 10-15 sentences in length. Short essay assignments are structured with a list of specific questions that need to be answered in the short essay. The short essay need not have an introduction or conclusion. The short essays will be graded on content, organization, and originality.

Exams are open note and open book, but must be taken individually. Students will have to sign a declaration that they are acting in accord with the University of Calgary's Integrity and Conduct Policies (<https://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>) before their exam is marked.

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

Review Sessions:

There will be three review sessions in this course, one before each exam. They will take place on Zoom. The dates are:

Review for Exam #1: Tuesday, Oct. 5, 5:00 - 6:15

Review for Exam #2: Tuesday, Nov. 2, 5:00 - 6:15

Review for Final Exam: Tuesday, Dec. 7, 5:00 - 6:15

Students are strongly encouraged to attend these sessions. Audio recordings of these sessions will be posted to D2L (absent any technological issues!).

Letter Grade Conversion Scale

Grades will be calculated as follows:

96-100 = A+	80-84.9 = B+	65-69.9 = C+	53-54.9 = D+
90-95.9 = A	75-79.9 = B	60-64.9 = C	50-52.9 = D
85-89.9 = A-	70-74.9 = B-	55-59.9 = C-	< 50 = F

Exams will be submitted online through D2L.

Students must take exams when they are scheduled.

If a student cannot take an exam at the scheduled time, they should contact me as soon as possible.

There will be a registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.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/current-students/student-services

- 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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>

for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy. Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director jfantl@ucalgary.ca) or David Dick (Honours Advisor dgdick@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Courtenay Canivet (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/student-services/student-success.

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 <https://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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>. 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 (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).