



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 347
“Contemporary Moral Problems”
Spring Term 2020

Course Outline
Lectures: ONLINE

Instructor: Chris Framarin
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30 - 2:30 and by appointment
(all office hours and appointments are on Zoom)

Course Description

In this course, we will review and evaluate debates around contemporary moral issues. Topics include: genetic enhancement, pornography, performance-enhancing drugs, world poverty, grown children’s obligations to parents, and others.

Online elements for this course:

This course is entirely online.
All lectures will be posted to D2L.
Discussion Lists will be available throughout the semester.
All office hours are on Zoom.
The midterm exam and final exam will be available on D2L, and will be submitted on D2L.

Prerequisites:

None

Course Learning Outcomes

Knowledge of debates and arguments on contemporary moral issues
Ability to accurately and charitably extract arguments from authors’ work
Ability to evaluate arguments of other authors fairly
Ability to construct convincing arguments in support of theses.
Ability to communicate ideas and arguments orally and/or in writing (online) with other students, and respond to other students in a respectful, productive way.

Required Texts:

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 Assessments:

Students will be graded on one quiz, five discussion board assignments, and two exams. Students will have 24 hours to complete the quiz and 24 hours to complete each exam on D2L. The quiz will consist of one essay question. The exams will each consist of two essay questions.

Quiz (Friday May 22)	10%
10 Discussion Board Assignments (between May 25 and June 10)	10%
First Exam (Wednesday, June 10):	40%
Final Exam (Registrar Scheduled):	40%

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

Grading Method

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

Course Policies:

Exams must be taken on the day they are scheduled.

I will mark all assignments without knowledge of the author's identity (so long as authors prepare exams for blind review as instructed, and take exams on the assigned date).

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

A student need not receive a passing mark on every assignment in order to pass the 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. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. 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. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html

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 (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Online Resources and Electronic Devices

Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. 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.

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