



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 361 Lec 01 – “Evidence”

Fall Term 2012

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 10am – 10:50am, Math Sciences Building, Room 217

Instructor: Brandon Holter

Office: Social Sciences 1215

Phone: (403) 225-6524

Email: bdholter@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Monday 11am - 1pm, Wednesday 1pm - 2:30pm

Course Description:

We very rarely have decisive evidence for truth. Yet we nonetheless form beliefs about what is true and act on what we believe to be most likely true. When is it legitimate to take a stand, either in belief or in action? How much evidence should we require before we trust others or ourselves – before we act in ways which, if we’re wrong, could cause more harm than good? How is evidence interpreted correctly? We will be looking at philosophical discussions of these themes as well as examining how they apply to real world issues and what consequences they have in contemporary society.

Required Texts

Course packet, available at the University Bookstore.

Evaluation

- 4 Reading analyses, roughly 2 pages in length (double-spaced). Each analysis is due at the beginning of the week we discuss the article analyzed, they must be turned in the Monday *before* in-class discussion of the article. In addition, 2 analyses must be turned in before the midterm exam and 2 after the midterm so that students complete 2 analyses for each half of the course. The lowest scoring analysis will not count toward a grade and 30% of the final grade (10% each) will be based on the remaining three analyses.
- A midterm exam on Monday, October 22 will be worth 30% of the final grade.
- A two hour Registrar-scheduled final examination (2 hours) will be worth 40% of the final grade. No notes, books, or other study materials are allowed for this exam.
- Students may, in principle, fail any one of these components and still pass the course.
- Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Grading Method

95-100 = A+	84-86 = B+	74-76 = C+	64-66 = D+
90-94 = A	80-83 = B	70-73 = C	60-63 = D
87-89 = A-	77-79 = B-	67-69 = C-	< 60 = F

Policy on Late Assignments

Late work will not be accepted. In cases of emergency, exams can be rescheduled.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are: Sarah Damberger arts1@su.ucalgary.ca; Hana Kadri arts2@su.ucalgary.ca; Kelsy Norman arts3@su.ucalgary.ca; Jack Mills arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. 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.