



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

### **PHIL 361 Lec 01**

#### **Evidence**

Fall 2021

MW 15:30-16:45 via Zoom

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Megan Delehanty

**Email:** mdelehan@ucalgary.ca

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

This course will cover some philosophical questions about the nature and role of evidence. Some of the questions we will look at are: What is evidence? How are evidence and data related? Is evidence objective? What are the sources of evidence? What is it for evidence to be reliable?

### **PREREQUISITE(S)**

None

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Describe the position argued for by a particular author or set of authors regarding the nature and role of evidence.
2. Compare different positions on the nature and role of evidence.
3. Discuss and critically evaluate existing literature on the nature and role of evidence.
4. Develop a case study of the nature of role played by evidence in the context of a specific problem.

### **REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS**

All readings will be available on D2L. You will be accessing the readings via Perusall, which will allow the class to collaborate on working through the readings prior to class.

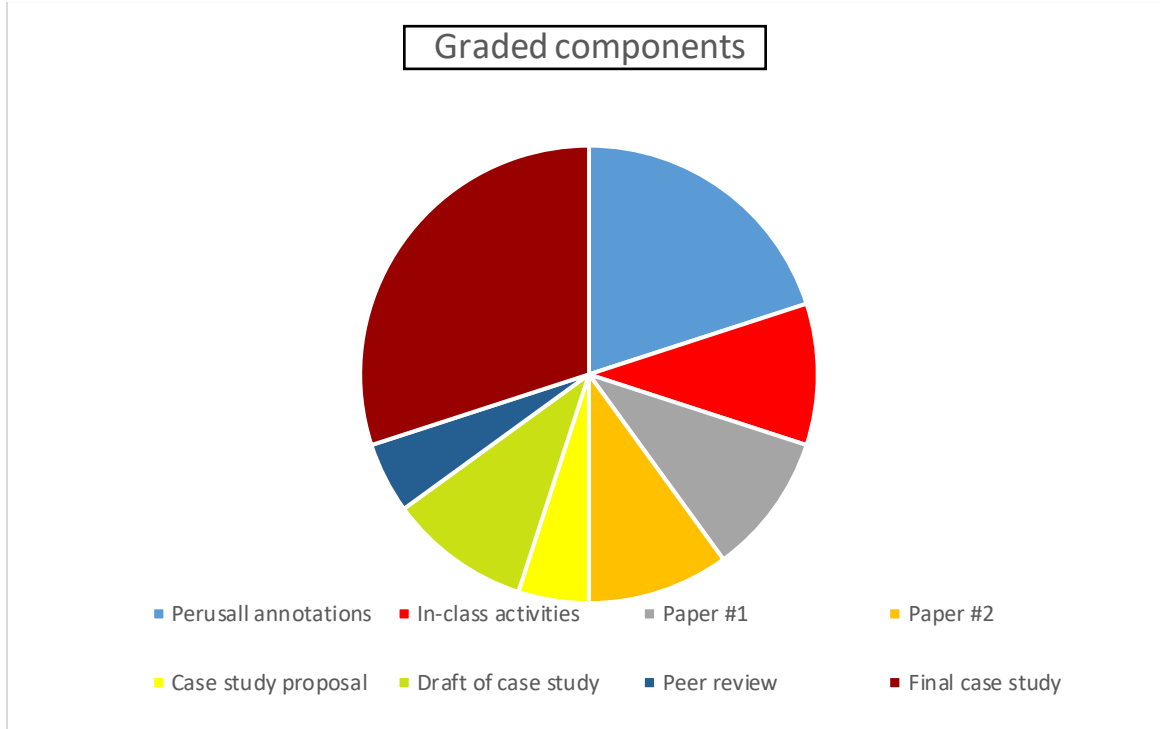
### **COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

#### **Assessment Components**

- 20% Annotation of readings via Perusall. Your top 10 scores will count towards this grade component). Annotations for a specific paper must be completed before the start of class on the day we discuss that paper. Annotations will be closed at that point, so no late work will be accepted.
- 10% contribution to various in-class activities throughout the term. These will be graded as complete/incomplete. All completed activities get 1/1; incomplete activities get 0/1. There will be at least one activity for each of the 13 weeks of term. You can accumulate a maximum of 10 points, which will get you full credit for this section of the course. In other words, you can be

absent for some classes and still receive 10 points. (Some activities may extend over more than one class session.)

- Two short papers (500-750 words), each worth 10% (=20% total)
- A case study will count for a total of 45% of your grade, broken down as follows:
  - 5% proposal
  - 10% draft of case study
  - 30% final version of case study
- 5% written peer review of another case study



**Tentative deadlines** (all written work is to be submitted to the D2L dropbox)

Paper #1: By the end of the day (23:59), Friday, Oct. 8

Paper #2: By the end of the day (23:59), Friday, Nov. 5

Case study proposal: By the end of the day (23:59), Monday, Nov. 15

Draft of case study: By the end of the day (23:59), Sunday, Nov. 28

Peer review (written version): By the end of the day (23:59), Sunday, Dec. 5

Final version of case study: By the end of the day (23:59), Wednesday, Dec. 17

- With the exception of the draft of the case study (which must be on time in order for your partner to complete their peer review), late work will be accepted as long as you let me know at least 24 hours before the due date (with exceptions for genuine last minute emergencies where advance notice is impossible).
- **It is my hope that this course will be fully accessible to all students, without the need to seek formal accommodations (despite the official university policy that must be included below). Please let me know if there are things that I can do to make this class more accessible for you.**
- This course will be held synchronously on Zoom. You are not required to have your camera on, though I encourage you to turn them on especially when you are in breakout rooms. It is hard to engage in conversation with a bunch of black squares!
- Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of students' work.
- It is not necessary to receive a passing grade on any particular component of a course to pass the course as a whole

## Exams

- There is no final exam in this course.

## Letter Grade Conversion Table

A+ 95 –100 %	B+ 80-84.9 %	C+ 65-69.9 %	D+ 50-54.9 %
A 90-94.9 %	B 75-79.9 %	C 60-64.9 %	D 45-49.9 %
A- 85-89.9 %	B- 70-74.9 %	C- 55-59.9 %	F 0- 44.9 %

## 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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy). Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)) or David Dick (Honours Advisor [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions

regarding registration, please email Courtenay Canivet (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](https://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](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](https://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](https://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>).