



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

**PHIL 361 Lec 01**

**Evidence**

Fall 2022

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11am - 12:15pm in MS 319

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor Name:** Dan Kary

**Email:** dakary@ucalgary.ca

**Office:** SS 1254

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 12:30-1:30pm

**COURSE INFORMATION**

An examination of issues related to evidence such as: the extent to which we are morally obligated to investigate or gather evidence before taking action, when (if ever) is it reasonable to believe without evidence or on faith, when and how we can determine whether somebody is an expert, when (if ever) we should require a consensus before taking action or forming belief, identifying various types of conspiracy theories and why they are problematic, how we enter and exit echo chambers and epistemic bubbles, what it means to have an open mind and whether or not it is (or can be) morally virtuous, and whether we can deceive ourselves.

**PREREQUISITE(S)**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Broad knowledge and comprehension of a diverse set of philosophical issues, concepts, problems, traditions, and views regarding evidence.
- Ability to critically, fairly, clearly, thoughtfully, and charitably, state, explain, evaluate, and discuss basic arguments and ideas for various positions regarding evidence.
- Ability to construct and communicate ideas and arguments that are convincing, plausible, and productive in support of one's own positions relating to topics in evidence.

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

All readings will be available on D2L

**COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

Participation (Tuesday September 6 to Tuesday December 6)

10%

The participation grade is based on regular, polite, civil, respectful, and thoughtful participation in class. A student can earn one participation point per class so long as that participation makes a meaningful contribution and/or has the potential to generate further discussion. The participation grade is determined by adding the participation points from eligible in-class participation (up to a maximum of 10 points).

If a student is unable to participate in a class, they may contact the instructor for an alternative means of participation.

## Exams

Test One (Tuesday September 27)	25%
Test Two (Thursday October 20)	25%
Test Three (Thursday November 17)	25%
Quiz (Tuesday December 6)	15%

All exams will be the same format: short answer questions. Exams can be accessed via D2L. There will be no registrar-scheduled final exam. Exams cannot be taken on days other than those indicated, unless communicated otherwise, without prior arrangement or an acceptable excuse. The exams are semi-open book. Students may use their own personal notes and the readings. *No other materials are permitted and students are not permitted to communicate with one another about the exam until all students have written the exam.*

### Letter Grade Conversion Table

A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+ 95-100	B+ 80-84.9	C+ 67-69.9	D+ 55-59.9
A 90-94.9	B 75-79.9	C 63-66.9	D 50-54.9
A- 85-89.9	B- 70-74.9	C- 60-62.9	F 0-49.9

## 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)).

### **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](http://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](http://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>).