



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

**PHIL 367 Lec 01**

**“Science and Philosophy”**

Winter 2020

TuTh 12:30-1:45, ST 126 / Online only as of March 16, 2020

**COURSE OUTLINE *Revised***

**Instructor Name:** Marc Ereshefsky

**Email:** ereshefs@ucalgary.ca

**Office:** SS 1204

**Office Hours:** There will be no more office hours for the rest of the term. However, Marc is happy to answer any of your questions via email.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

We will discuss four important questions in the philosophy science. What makes a theory a scientific theory? What is scientific objectivity? What does science tell us about human nature? Are scientific theories true?

**PREREQUISITE(S)**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Knowledge of various philosophical perspectives on the nature of science.
- Ability to critically interpret and analyze complex philosophical sources.
- Ability to engage in constructive oral and written argumentation.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

*Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues* (Second Edition). 2012. Martin Curd and J. A. Cover (eds.), 1998, W.W. Norton and Company.

**TOPICS AND READINGS**

What is Science?

1. "Science: Conjectures and Refutations" – Popper (in Curd and Cover)
2. "Why Astrology is a Pseudoscience" – Thagard (in Curd and Cover)

What is Scientific Objectivity?

1. "Objectivity, Value Judgment, and Theory" – Kuhn (in Curd and Cover)
2. "Values and Objectivity" – Longino (in Curd and Cover)
3. "Gender and the Biological Sciences" – Okruhlik (in Curd and Cover)

Science and Human Nature

1. "On Human Nature" – David Hull (in *PSA: Proceedings of the Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, Vol. 1986, Volume Two: Symposia and Invited Papers*, pp. 3-13, 1986. Available from the University Library e-journal collection.)
2. "Animalism and the Persistence of Human Organisms" – John Dupré (in *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, Volume 52, Issue Supplement S1, pp. 6–23, September 2014. Available from the University Library e-journal collection.)

## Are Scientific Theories True?

1. "The Ontological Status of Theoretical Entities" – Maxwell (in Curd and Cover)
2. "Arguments Concerning Scientific Realism" – van Fraassen (in Curd and Cover)
3. "Experimentation and Scientific Realism" – Hacking (in Curd and Cover)

## **COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

### Written Preparations

- Five written preparations are required. Each preparation should contain a one-sentence question from a reading we are discussing in class. In a different paragraph, provide six to eight sentences explaining why you are raising the question and context of the question.
- Samples of written preparations can be found on D2L.
- The question may be remedial, seeking an account of an important claim or argument in the reading that you could not follow. Or the question could be more critical in nature, alluding to a weakness in the paper. Or the question could be probing, identifying an issue that is raised by the reading or a possible implication of the reading.
- There are three remaining readings in our course on which you can write written preparations: they are chapters by Maxwell, van Fraassen, and Hacking. You can hand in written preparations on these chapters whenever you want, but *no written preparations will be accepted after April 9*.
- Written preparations for the rest of the semester can be submitted to the Written Preparation folder via the Dropbox function on our class's D2L site.
- You can hand in more than five written preparations. For each additional preparation beyond five, your lowest grade for a preparation will be replaced with a higher additional preparation grade.

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

### Tests

- There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam.
- Test 1 was already given. Test 2 will be given on March 24. Questions will be posted in the Content section of D2L at 10:00 am that day. You must submit your Test 2 answers to a Dropbox folder for the test on D2L by 11:30 pm that night.
- Test questions will be drawn from our readings and class discussion.

### Term Paper

- A term paper will be due at the end of the semester. A set of topics for the term paper will be assigned. Topics will be distributed at least two weeks before the paper is due. The term paper should be no longer than 2000 words (approximately 6 double spaced pages.) Detailed instructions for the paper will be distributed later in the term.

### Group Discussions

Various group discussion forums for the class will be set up. Some forums will be dedicated to topics in the course. Others will be dedicated to Test 2 and the term paper. Marc will respond to any questions you have.

### Lecture Notes

Instead of lectures for this course, lecture notes will be posted in the Content section of D2L. Group discussions will be held through D2L as well.

### ***Due Dates, Assignment Values, and Grade Scale***

No late assignments will be accepted without an appropriate excuse.

Written Preparations: 5 X 3 points each. See above for when these assignments are due.

Test #1                      25 points                      February 11

Test #2	30 points	March 24
Term Paper	30 points	April 16

Final grades will be awarded as follows.

96-100 = A+	80-83 = B	68-69 = C-
90-95 = A	78-79 = B-	64-67 = D+
88-89 = A-	74-77 = C+	60-63 = D
84-87 = B+	70-73 = C	below 60 = F

## **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://phil.ucalgary.ca). Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (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 (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](http://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](http://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](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/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).