



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**PHIL 395 Lec 01 – “Mind and World”**

**Fall Term 2010**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: Tu/Th 11:00-12:15 in EDC 255**

**Instructor:** Jeremy Fantl

**Office:** SS 1238

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 12:30-2:00

***Course Description***

This course has two goals: first, to teach you the sort of writing that will be expected from you as you move into more advanced philosophy courses and, second, to give you the familiarity with philosophical issues that is often taken for granted in advanced courses in Metaphysics and Epistemology. You will be called on to write 3 essays, each of which (except, of course, the 1st) builds on skills developed for the preceding essays. For each essay you will have a choice of topics to write about, and the thesis will be, within limits, entirely up to you. The *kind* of essay, however, is prescribed: it is an expository essay – an essay defined by its purpose: to convince a reasonable person who doesn't believe your thesis to believe your thesis.

***Required Text***

Course packet, available at Bound and Copied.

***Evaluation***

- Three Polished Essays: the essay assignments require progressively more complex and independent thinking on your part. The first essay (worth 25% of the final grade) will be a 3-5 page focused critique of a short snippet of philosophy. The second essay (worth 35% of the final grade) will be a 4-6 page intervention in a debate between two texts. The third essay (worth 40% of the final grade) will be a 6-8 argument about one of a variety of issues concerning freedom of the will.
- Three Rough Drafts: for each essay you will write a rough draft which will be reviewed by at least one of your classmates. The draft for the third essay will also be reviewed by me and discussed with me in a one-on-one conference (see next). Some of you will have your drafts workshopped by the class as a whole. These drafts are not graded, though late or missing drafts can reduce the grade of your polished essay (see the policy on late drafts, below).

**Evaluation, cont.**

- One Draft Conference: this 20 minute conference on the draft of your third essay will be completely anxiety free for you. I will want to hear your worries about your paper and what you think possible solutions might be. Your performance in these conferences is not graded. Missed conferences will not be rescheduled.
- Pre-Draft Writing Assignments: you will be required to complete 1 or 2 predraft writing assignments for the second two papers. These assignments will generally be brief (1 or 2 page) exercises designed to focus your attention to particular facets of the upcoming essay assignment or hone particular skills needed to write the essay. These assignments are not graded, though unexcused late assignments will not be accepted.
- Class Participation: you are expected to be an active participant in class discussions. Read the course material and have questions and comments ready. Do not get apathetic. Do not get angry. Have opinions and express them. But do not insult or condescend. Your classmates have reasons that they believe what they do. What are those reasons? This is not to say that you shouldn't express disagreement. If you think someone is wrong, say so. And say why. We will reason it through – thoughtfully and without insult.
- There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

**Grading Method**

Letter Grades translate to numerical values according to the following scheme:

|             |             |             |             |       |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| A+: 98.33   | B+: 88.33   | C+: 78.33   | D+: 68.33   | F: 55 |
| A+/A: 96.67 | B+/B: 86.67 | C+/C: 76.67 | D+/D: 66.67 |       |
| A: 95       | B: 85       | C: 75       | D: 65       |       |
| A/A-: 93.33 | B/B-: 83.33 | C/C-: 73.33 | D/D-: 63.33 |       |
| A-: 91.67   | B-: 81.67   | C-: 71.67   | D-: 61.67   |       |
| A-/B+: 90   | B-/C+: 80   | C-/D+: 70   |             |       |

Final Grades are computed by rounding to the nearest recognized letter grade.

**Policy on Late Assignments**

You can get an extension on one and only one assignment/draft/essay. You can take this extension for any reason at all. But you must clear it with me at least a day in advance of the due date and, again, you only get one. So save it for when you really need it.

***All unexcused late essays will lose one full letter grade for each day the essay is late, to a maximum of 4 full letter grades. Missing essays receive a zero. Unexcused late rough drafts will reduce the grade of the polished essay 1/3 of a letter grade for each day the draft is late, to a maximum of 2 full letter grades. Unexcused late pre-draft assignments will not be accepted, though there is no grade penalty. Missed conferences will not be rescheduled. There is no official grade penalty.***

### **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 Laura Golebiowski ([arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan ([arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)), Lara Schmitz ([arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)), and Vincent St. Pierre ([arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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 unless other arrangements have been made in writing and filed with the Department Administrator.

### **SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS**

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).

## Syllabus

### Part I: A Focused Critique of a Single Snippet of Text

| Date         | Topic and Class Activity  |
|--------------|---|
| 9/14, Tues:  | <i>The Expository Essay</i><br>The Value of Knowledge<br>Discuss Plato, <i>Meno</i> , selection   |
| 9/16, Thurs: | <i>Thesis</i><br>Fatalism<br>Discuss Aristotle, <i>De Interpretatione</i> , selection   |
| 9/21, Tues:  | <i>Argument</i><br>Puzzles of Material Constitution<br>Discuss Hobbes, <i>Elements of Philosophy</i> , selection ( <i>Concerning Body</i> ) |
| 9/23, Thurs: | Opening Your Essay<br>Introduction Exercise   |
| 9/28, Tues:  | Developing Your Essay<br>Peer Review<br>Essay 1 Draft Due   |
| 9/30, Thurs: | Developing Your Essay<br>Workshops  |
| 10/4, Mon:   | Essay 1 Due   |

### Part II: An Intervention in a Two-Text Debate

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 10/5, Tues:   | Pessimism About Free Will<br>Discuss Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything"                          |
| 10/7, Thurs:  | Libertarianism<br>Discuss Ekstrom, "Indeterminist Free Action"                                     |
| 10/12, Tues:  | Physicalism about the Mind<br>Discuss Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes"                      |
| 10/14, Thurs: | An Argument against Physicalism<br>Discuss Gertler, "A Defense of Mind-Body Dualism"               |
| 10/19, Tues:  | Personal Identity<br>Discuss Parfit, "The Unimportance of Identity"                                |
| 10/21, Thurs: | A Difficulty for Fission Arguments<br>Discuss Gendler, "Personal Identity and Thought Experiments" |
| 10/26, Tues:  | The Case for the Other Side<br><i>Motive and Objections and Replies</i><br>W.A. 2.1 Due            |
| 10/28, Thurs: | Philosophy is <i>FUN</i><br>Selected Philosophical Paradoxes                                       |
| 11/2, Tues:   | Developing Your Essay<br>Peer Review<br>Essay 2 Draft Due  |
| 11/4, Thurs:  | Developing Your Essay<br>Workshops   |

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 11/8, Mon: | Essay 2 Due |
|------------|-------------|

Part III: An Argument About a Complex Issue With a Range of Associated Texts

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 11/9, Tues:      | <i>Sources</i> , Part I<br>The Perceptual Knowledge Banquet                      |
| 11/16, Tues:     | Rationalism<br>Discuss Descartes, Meditation 2, paragraphs 11-14                 |
| 11/18,<br>Thurs: | <i>Transitions</i><br>Skepticism<br>Discuss Hume, selection                      |
| 11/23, Tues:     | Idealism<br>Discuss Berkeley, selection  |
| 11/25,<br>Thurs: | <i>Sources</i> , Part II<br>The Four "I"s<br>Plagiarism exercise<br>W.A. 3.1 Due |
| 11/30, Tues:     | <i>Structure</i>   |
| 12/2, Thurs:     | Developing Your Essay<br>Structure and Transitions Exercise<br>Essay 3 Draft Due |
| 12/7, Tues:      | Developing Your Essay<br>Workshops   |
| 12/9, Thurs:     | Developing Your Essay<br>Workshops   |
| 12/16, Fri:      | Essay 3 Due  |