

PHIL 395-01

Fall Term 2018 Course Outline

Mind and World

Meetings: MWF 10-10:50, SA 015

Instructor: David Liebesman
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Office Hours: Wed. 12-2

Course Description: What is a table? This question may seem straightforward, but, as you'll see, it is anything but. In this course, we'll examine a series of issues concerning the nature of ordinary objects—the sorts of things we take for granted in our ordinary action, perception, and thought. This course is designed as a writing-intensive seminar, so students will engage in a series of tasks all designed to improve their philosophical prose and thought.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students who complete this course will have a grasp of some of the key theoretical issues that underlie the metaphysics of material objects. Students will be required to write and revise short papers, review their peer's work, utilize library resources, and construct a bibliography.

Course Assessment:

Nine short writing assignments, worth 5 points each, due dates given below. There will be a peer review component to each assignment, and if you complete both components, you will receive at least 4 points.

One term paper, in two drafts, worth 55 points. The rough draft is worth 5 points (completion will ensure that you receive 4). The final draft is due on Dec. 12th.

Schedule

Sept 7: Intro

Sept 10, 12: The Problem of the Many; Reading: "Many but Almost One" by David Lewis

Sept. 14: Writing assignment 1 (paraphrase)

Sept. 17, 19: Persistence Through Time; Reading: "Persistence Through Time" by Sally Haslanger

Sept. 21: Writing Assignment 2 (identifying and presenting and argument)

Sept 24, 26: Colocation; Reading: "Why Constitution is not Identity" by Lynne Rudder Baker

Sept 28: Writing assignment 3 (summary)

Oct. 1, 3: The Grounding Problem; Reading: "Spatio-Temporal Coincidence and the Grounding Problem" by Karen Bennett

Oct. 5: Writing assignment 4 (clarity and non-pretentious prose)

Oct. 8: No class; thanksgiving

Oct. 10: TBD

Oct. 12: Writing assignment 5 (argument and response 1)

Oct 15, 17: Eliminativism; Reading: chapter 3 of *Objects and Persons* by Trenton Merricks

Oct. 19: Writing assignment 6 (argument and response 2)

Oct. 22, 24: Debunking Arguments; Reading: "Debunking Perceptual Beliefs About Ordinary Objects" by Daniel Korman

Oct. 26: Writing assignment 7 (argument and response 3)

Oct. 29, 31: Structured Wholes; Reading: "Things and Their Parts" by Kit Fine.

Nov. 2: Writing assignment 8 (argument and response 4)
Nov. 5, 7: Composition as Identity; Reading: "Composition as Identity" parts 1 and 2 by Megan Wallace
Nov 9: Writing assignment 9 (Precis and reading list for term paper)
Nov. 19, 21: Conventionalism; Reading: "Is there a True Metaphysics of Material Objects?" by Alan Sidelle
Nov. 23: Term paper rough drafts due
Nov. 26, 28, 30: Realism; Reading: "Ontological Realism" by Theodore Sider
Dec. 3, 5, 7: TBD

Required Book:

Philosophy Writing: A Guide for Canadian Students, by Lewis Vaughn and Jillian Scott McIntosh, Oxford University Press.

Letter Grade Conversion Table

A+	96 –100 %	C+	67-69.9 %
A	91-95.9 %	C	64-66.9 %
A-	86-90.9 %	C-	60-63.9 %
B+	80-85.9 %	D+	55-59.9 %
B	75-79.9 %	D	50-54.9 %
B-	70-74.9 %	F	0- 49.9 %

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded 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. See the relevant section K.5 on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.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 correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

General Academic Concerns and Program Planning

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca.

Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising> for detailed information on common academic concerns

Advice on Philosophy Courses

You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca>, or contact one of Philosophy's Undergraduate Advisors. David Dick (dgdick@ucalgary.ca), Jack MacIntosh (macintos@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca).

Registration Overload/Prerequisite Waivers

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prerequisites for a course, email the Department Manager, Tram Nguyen (tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. 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 or teaching assistant.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging 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

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>