PHIL 399.14 Lec 1
Topics in Philosophy (Philosophy and Dungeons and Dragons)

Summer 2020
Asynchronously assigned weekly, online

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Kimberly Brumble
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Office: Phil N/A
Office Hours: Mondays 2-4pm held via scheduled zoom meetings and email
Office Phone: N/A

Teaching Assistant Name: Darren Wilson
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Office Hours: TBD
Office Phone: N/A

COURSE INFORMATION
This course will survey some central problems in philosophy as they relate to table top role playing games generally and Dungeons and Dragons in particular. While our main quest will be to familiarize ourselves with how philosophy responds to fundamental and timeless human questions about the nature of life and death, identity, reality, good and evil, experience, and love, we will also engage in side quests into some current and exciting discussions in contemporary philosophy of science, critical theory, game theory, cognitive science, philosophy of language, feminist philosophy, philosophy of statistics, philosophy of race, existentialism and aesthetics. This is an adventure for levels 1-20 in both philosophy and gaming. No experience with role playing games or philosophy is required. All are welcome.

PREREQUISITE(S)
None.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Exploration of central problems in philosophy as they are revealed to us in collaborative story telling, role playing games, and fantasy fiction
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

REQUIRED READINGS AND MATERIALS

Robichaud, Christopher. Dungeons and Dragons and Philosophy: Read and Gain Advantage on All Wisdom Checks. 1st ed. 2014. The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Ser.

All other readings will be posted to the course D2L weekly.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Course Grade Breakdown:

95 – 100 = A
83 – 86.9 = B
73 – 76.9 = C
63 – 66.9 = D
90 – 94.9 = A-
80 – 82.9 = B-
70 – 72.9 = C-
60 – 62.9 = D-
87 – 89.9 = B+
77 – 79.9 = C+
67 – 69.9 = D+
< 60 = F

Assignments:

Weekly Discussion Posts (1 per reading): 12.5%
Weekly Discussion responses (2 per reading) 12.5%

Exam 1 (multiple choice, offered online through D2L): 25% (exams may be corrected for partial credit) (Week 3 of class). The exam will be available on D2L for 24 hours to complete.
Exam 2 (multiple choice, offered online through D2L): 25% (exams may be corrected for partial credit) (Week 5 of class). The exam will be available on D2L for 24 hours to complete.

Study Guide for one reading and discussion questions (2-3 pages, submitted by Sunday at midnight before the reading is discussed): 25%

All coursework must be submit through dropbox on D2L by midnight of the date assignments are due, except discussion posts which should happen throughout the week and are due by midnight on Sunday.

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

Exams
Exams are open book, open note, but must be completed individually by students when they are assigned. Exams are offered over D2L.

There is no registrar scheduled exam for this course.

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.

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. 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

Student Support and Resources
Full details and information about the following resources can be found at 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 for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator 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.

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 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.

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

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. 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) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).