



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 399 Lec 01 – Topics in Philosophy
Topic 2: “Philosophy of Money”

Winter Term 2011

Course Outline

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15 in ST 131

Instructor: David G. Dick

Office: SS 1224

Phone: 403-220-6434

Email: dgdick@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12pm-2pm, and by appointment

Course Description

In caricature, philosophers are the wrong people entirely to ask about money, since they either have disdain for it, or simply aren't very good at making much of it. But at least since Aristotle, philosophers have had surprising things to say about money, and thinking about money is an excellent way to think through questions about the nature of value, reality, and morality. This course will focus on three philosophical issues provoked by money: money and the nature of value, distributive justice and the ethics of wealth, and the relationship between money and happiness.

Required Texts*

The Ascent of Money

Ferguson, Niall, The Penguin Press, 2008

ISBN 13: 978-0143116172

Nicomachean Ethics

Aristotle (any unabridged version acceptable)

Politics

Aristotle (any unabridged version acceptable)

Second Treatise of Government

Locke, John (any unabridged version acceptable)

Additional materials will be indicated via the Blackboard site for this class.

Available at: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>

*Note on texts: With the exception of the Ferguson volume, there are reliable, full texts of the Aristotle and Locke works freely available online. Using these is perfectly acceptable, as is purchasing a printed copy. If you have any questions on a particular edition, please feel free to contact me.

Evaluation

Weekly Questions:	20%	
First Philosophical Paper:	25%	Due: Thursday, February 17th
Research Paper:	20%	Accepted any time before Thursday, April 14
Final Philosophical Paper:	35%	Due: Monday, April 18

All evaluated material will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the standard 4.0 scale:

4.3 – A+	3.3 – B+	2.3 – C+	1.3 – D+	0.0 – F
4.0 – A	3.0 – B	2.0 – C	1.0 – D	
3.7 – A–	2.7 – B–	1.7 – C–		

The arithmetic that will calculate your final grade will follow this formula:

$$(W. Questions).20 + (1st Phil Paper).25 + (Research Paper).20 + (2nd Paper).35 = \text{Final Grade}$$

This course has no Registrar administered final exam, only a final paper.

The entire mark will involve being graded on written work. Naturally, standard for essays prepared outside class will be much higher than those for weekly assignments.

Weekly questions are to be submitted in class and will not be accepted late.

Late papers are accepted, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period late. So, an A-paper submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-. Once a paper is late, it should be submitted via email (to me at dgdick@ucalgary.ca) as soon as it is ready.

The final grade will be based on the credit accumulated from the various assignments, so it is mathematically possible to pass the course without turning in any particular assignment. But this strategy is not recommended.

Weekly Questions:

Each week, on a day of your choice, I'd like you to submit a question based on the reading for the day that you submit the question.

The question you write should convince me that you've read the day's reading, at least well enough to be confused by it.

I'm not kidding: confusion is a philosophical heuristic, it either helps you identify a place where you don't understand, or where the argument doesn't make sense. Either one of these counts as philosophical progress.

These questions and their explanations need not be any longer than about half a page. (I'll post an example of what I mean to Blackboard.)

Weekly questions are due at the beginning of each class, in hard copy. You can only submit a weekly question on a day you attend class. (This is also a way of encouraging and tracking attendance.)

There are 13 weeks including this first one, but I'll only be asking for 12 weekly questions from you this semester. It's entirely up to you which day you'd like to pass on.

Extra weekly questions beyond this 12 will be read, but will not count for any extra credit.

Philosophical Papers:

Will be in the form of philosophical essays written in response to topics I will distribute in advance of the days the papers are due.

Further instructions will be included when those topics are distributed.

Research Paper:

Beyond the two philosophical papers you will write for this class, you owe me one shorter research paper. To my knowledge, this is the first Philosophy of Money course ever and so has no canonical set of texts or sources. I have compiled an archive, but there is no reason to think it is exhaustive, so I am asking you in your research paper to bring me one new source relating to the philosophy of money. This helps me, obviously, but it will also help you to practice looking at the world with a philosophical eye.

In the first week of class, I will distribute a list of all the sources I know about so far, and it will be your task in this assignment to alert me to something that is philosophically interesting about money that is not on this list. In a paper that is approximately 1000 words you should provide me with three things: 1) a reference to this source so that I can locate it, 2) a description of the source, and 3) (which is most important) a discussion of why this source is philosophically interesting.

This paper can be submitted at any point in the semester, but no later than the last day of class, Thursday, April 14th. Obviously, it is to your advantage to submit it long before this, since you have another paper due for this class soon after that, and work tends to pile up at the end of the semester.

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), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan (arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), Lara Schmitz (arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), and Vincent St. Pierre (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).