



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 411.4 Lec 01**  
**“Topics in the History of Philosophy: Science & Religion in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century”**

**Fall Term 2014**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: Thursdays 3:30-6:15 pm in EDC 255**

**Instructor:** J. J. MacIntosh

**Office:** SS 1249

**Phone:** 403-220-3164

**Email:** [macintos@ucalgary.ca](mailto:macintos@ucalgary.ca)

**Four Notes about Email:**

- 1) Students wishing to get in touch with me via email should ensure that “Philosophy 411” or some other clearly identifying term occurs in the subject line. Otherwise there is a strong possibility that your message will be deleted unread as spam.
- 2) Should you change your email address during the term please ensure that it is changed in the University system. If you do not, and an email message is sent to the class, it will fail to reach you.
- 3) **If you email me to make an appointment please indicate the times when you are available.**
- 4) Please make sure your first and last name is clearly included in the body of any email message.

**Office Hours:** In the period September 8 - December 5, office hours are at the following times:  
W 10:00 - 12:00.

**OR BY APPOINTMENT**

Note that this means what it says. You are not limited to the times listed, but you may need to make an appointment. If you email to ask for an appointment please be sure to state clearly the times you are available.

**Course Description:** A study of the way in which, for major philosophers of the period, their religious views interacted with their views on natural philosophy. We shall concentrate on the views of one major philosopher and scientist of the period, Robert Boyle, but of course we shall consider the views of other thinkers of the time, including Hobbes, Bacon, Gassendi, Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Pascal, Cudworth, Conway, and Newton. The "new philosophy" which stressed experimental results was widely seen as being all too likely to lead to atheism and it was a major concern of leading natural philosophers of the time to show that this was not the case.

When I wrote my treatise about our System I had an eye upon such Principles as might work with considering men for the beleife of a Deity & nothing can rejoyce me more then to find it useful for that purpose. But if I have done the publick any service this way 'tis due to nothing but industry & a patient thought. [Newton to Richard Bentley, December 10, 1692, in Isaac Newton, *Correspondence*, ed. H.W. Turnbull, 7 vols. (Cambridge: Published for the Royal Society at the University Press, 1959-77), 3:233]

At some point toward the end of term 15-20 minutes at the beginning of class will be used for the student surveys.

**Required Text:** Boyle, Robert, *The Excellencies of Robert Boyle* (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2008). We shall also be using on-line texts of the works of Boyle and others. First editions of Boyle's works may be accessed through <http://eebo.chadwyck.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/home>. The current definitive edition of Boyle's *Works* by Michael Hunter and Edward Davis may be accessed online through the library. A selection of books (to be posted on D2L) has been put on reserve in the Library. Detailed suggestions for reading, including D2L postings, will be given throughout the term.

Students are encouraged to read original articles and books, and to consult the *Philosophers Index* (online, along with a number of other data bases via the University Library) frequently. Students consulting material on the net are reminded that refereed sources are more likely to contain rigorous, scholarly material than unrefereed sources (there's a lot of rubbish on the net). All major philosophical journals are refereed, and most are available on-line via our library. Also available on-line is the (recommended) Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<http://plato.stanford.edu/>). Be sure to check out also Jonathan Bennett's early modern website at <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/>, which students find extremely helpful.

### **Evaluation**

- Marks will be based on two tests and eight assignments.
- Tests: The first test is an in-class test worth 42% of the final mark. Students may bring to the in-class test a single sheet of standard sized paper (approx. 21.5 x 28 cm). You may put on the paper anything you like (notes, quotations, bits of graffiti, pictures of Flames players, etc., etc.) No other notes or books may be consulted. On your test please write as legibly as time allows; if possible use a pen not a pencil. After the first test students may submit an optional term paper (deadline, firm: two weeks after return in class of the test; maximum length 3,000 words). For the optional term paper you may choose any of the questions from the in class test, or another topic relevant to the work covered to date chosen in consultation with JJM. For the optional term paper, if chosen, emailed submissions are strongly preferred. Please use Microsoft word and attach your paper to an ordinary email. The term paper mark will, if higher, replace the mark of the corresponding test for the purpose of calculating the final mark, unless the test mark was an F, in which case that mark will stand. The second test is a take home test worth 50% of the final mark. For each test you will be given a choice of questions, and asked to answer two questions. The first test will be on October 30. The second test will be posted November 21, and will be due by 23:59 December 5. Electronic submissions are preferred for this second test—simply email your test as an email attachment, preferably as a Microsoft word document. If MSWord is unavailable please use a pdf format. Please ensure that your name is on your test. Length of this second test: total length of your two answers should have a maximum of (approximately) 3,000 words. There will be no Registrar-scheduled final examination. Some suggestions on writing term papers will be available on D2L.
- Assignments: The eight assignments are designed to ensure that you are keeping up with the reading, and are intended to test awareness of our texts. Each assignment will require a short, one paragraph, answer to a straightforward question about a text with which we are currently working or are about to work. Each assignment will be on a pass fail basis. A pass on a given assignment will be worth 1% of the final mark. If your first attempt is a fail, you may have **one** second attempt, due two days after email notification of the fail mark. No third attempts. Electronic submissions, as part of, or as an attachment to, an ordinary email, are strongly preferred. If you are attaching the assignment please ensure that your name is on your assignment, not merely on the email. Preferred subject line format for your emailed assignment to ensure that your assignment is not deleted as spam: 411yournameAn, where ('n' is the assignment number). Passing a minimum of seven of these assignments is required for a pass in the course as a whole. The assignments, posted one week before the due date, are due by 11.59 p.m. of the due dates. These are: A1, September 19; A2, September 26; A3, October 10; A4, October 17, A5, October 24; A6, November 14; A7, November 21; A8, November 28. Assignment topics and suggested readings will be available on D2L.

- We are asked by the University to "Indicate when writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of the student's work. (See [E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum](#) statement.)" Writing and the grading thereof is indeed a factor in the evaluation of your work. Your writing should be clear, coherent, and to the point. Your arguments should be plainly set out. Notice that footnotes of the incomplete and unhelpful sort offered in "E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum" (at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>) will be clear evidence of insufficient scholarly acumen, ability, or interest. You may wish to consult the short notes on writing a philosophy paper on D2L for a more helpful way of giving references. These notes also mention the relation between writing and philosophical evaluation.

### ***Grading Method***

Your tests will be graded on the standard university scale which ranges from A+ to F. Your mark may sometimes have a slash ('/') in it, thus: B/B+. In such cases the first mark is the official mark, the second shows which end of the mark you are closer to. An A-/B+ is an A- at the lower end; an A-/A is an A- at the upper end. Letter grade marks will be averaged by using GPA numerical equivalents. The assignment marks, worth 8% of the final mark, will be assigned a cumulative letter grade based on the following table: 8: A+, 7: A, 6: B, 5: C, 4: D, 3: E, 2: F. Failure to submit an assignment by the due date produces an automatic F for that assignment. Notice that an F as the total assignment grade will produce an F in the course.

### ***Spelling and grammar***

In the optional term paper for the first test, if chosen, and in the take home test, more than five grammatical or spelling mistakes on any one page will lead to it being returned for corrections before a mark is assigned. Corrections are due within two days of the return. Two examples of the same mistake count as two mistakes. Standard U. S. spellings (e.g., 'neighbor' for 'neighbour', 'defense' for 'defence', 'theater' for 'theatre,' etc.) are acceptable. Common mistakes in philosophy papers include: (1) misspellings of 'existence,' 'conceive,' 'argument,' and 'separate'; (2) the misuse of 'i.e.' for 'e.g.'; (3) the misuse of 'phenomena' and 'criteria' as singulars. They are plurals. The singulars are 'phenomenon' and 'criterion.' Finally there is (4) the increasingly common use of the contraction 'it's' as a possessive. Perhaps this now common error will become standard, but it has not become so yet, and just as we do not speak of "he's book," or "she's pen" so we should not refer to "it's colour." The use of 'it's' as a possessive was common in the 17th century, and this is a course in 17th century philosophy. Therefore, exceptionally, in this course you may use 'it's' as a possessive, provided of course that you also conform to 17th century conventions in other matters such as spelling, punctuation, pronoun use, word meaning, grammar, etc.

Of course you should avoid sexist language. In particular, remember that 'man' and 'he' are not gender neutral, and that 'girl' is not an appropriate term for adult women. (No doubt these remarks will have little practical relevance for *this* class; I put them in mainly to ensure that they remain unnecessary.) To answer a FAQ in advance: when quoting an early modern author, should I keep the sexist language? — Answer: Yes. Quote accurately.

### ***Policy on Late Assignments***

As mentioned above, electronic submissions are preferred for assignments, term papers, and the take home test. If a hard copy submission is easier for you, there will be a drop box available in the philosophy department (in the hall on the left side as you enter the department, 12th floor, Social Sciences Building). Notice that this drop box will only be available until 4:30 on the day your assignment, etc. is due. The deadlines for assignments, term papers, and take home tests are firm: no late submissions accepted.

### Academic Honesty

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, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. 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

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for 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. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

### D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's learning management system which has now replaced BlackBoard. Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

### Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the PIC Office can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> 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 current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

### 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.

### Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

#### PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building  
and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2014:

Chris Framarin (Undergrad Director) [chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca)

Reid Buchanan [buchanar@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanar@ucalgary.ca)

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) [migotti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:migotti@ucalgary.ca)

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact  
Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca))