



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**PHIL 411.5 Lec 01**

**Topics in the History of Philosophy: Continental Philosophy and the Unknown  
Fall Term 2015**

**Course Outline**

**TR 14:00-15:15, SA 121**

**Instructor: B. Moran**

**Office: Soc. Sci. 1208**

**Office Phone: (403) 220-5064**

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

**Office Hours: Tuesday 12:45-13:45, or by appointment**

**Course Description**

The topic of the course is the relationship of philosophy with the unknown. Themes to be considered include thinking and being, knowledge and non-knowledge, the human and the non-human, philosophy and non-philosophy, the “known” and its potential victims. Although some consideration will be given in the classes to historical context and to philosophical predecessors and successors, both the classes and the assignments will focus on the arguments in the four selected texts.

**Required Texts**

1. Martin Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology and other essays*. Trans. William Lovitt (New York: Harper and Row, 2013).
2. Georges Bataille, *Inner Experience*. Trans. Stuart Kendall (Albany: State University Press of New York, 2014). Only use: **ISBN-13: 978-1438452364**.
3. Giorgio Agamben, *Homo Sacer. Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998)
4. François Laruelle, *General Theory of Victims*. Trans. Alex Dubilet and Jessie Hock (Polity Press, 2015).

**Course Requirements**

1. First essay: 2000 words. Due on **Oct. 27**; worth 40% of final grade.
2. Second essay: 2000 words. Due on **Dec.11** (in the dept. drop-box); worth 40% of final grade.
3. In-class presentation: 1000 words. Worth 10% of final grade.
4. Class Participation: Worth 10% of final grade. (This grade will be based on constructive contributions to class discussions.)

**There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.**

- Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Letter grades will be given. Those grades will be based on the following numerical system: A+ = 90-100%; A = 85-89 %; A- = 80-84%; B+ = 77-79; B = 74-76; B- = 70-73; C+ = 67-69; C = 64-66; C- = 60-63; D+ = 55-59; D = 50-54; F = 0-49. If the final grade is fractional, it will be rounded off to the higher full number only if it is .5 or higher (e.g. 69.5 would become 70, 69.49 would not).

Late papers will receive a grade reduction (A to A-, A- to B+, and so on) unless an extension has been negotiated before the deadline. A paper submitted after an extended deadline will be subject to the same policy of grade reduction. **No papers will be accepted after the final grades have been submitted to the Department and the Registrar.**

Please hand two paper copies of each of your essays directly to me (unless instructed to slip them under my office door or in the drop-box available in the Philosophy department on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Science Building). Ensure that you have a copy. **Papers submitted by email will *not* be 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**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

#### **D2L Help**

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's online learning management system. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

#### **Student Advising and Information Resources**

- 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](mailto: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/undergraduate> 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 or teaching assistant.

#### **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 2015:**

Jeremy Fantl (Undergrad Director) [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)

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

Ann Levey (Honours Program Advisor) [levey@ucalgary.ca](mailto:levey@ucalgary.ca)

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