



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

**PHIL 412 Lec 01**  
**Contemporary Continental Philosophy**  
**Winter Term 2019**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: MWF 13:00-13:50 in SA 121**

**Instructor: Brendan Moran**  
**Office: Soc. Sci. 1208**  
**Office Phone: (403) 220-5064**  
**Email: bmoran@ucalgary.ca**  
**Office Hours: W 11:15-12:15**

**Course Description**

The course will examine influential works of recent Continental European philosophy. Themes to be considered will include the internet and philosophy of language, philosophy and science, speculative materialism, responsibility and action, myth and community.

**Prerequisites:**

One of Philosophy 309, 311, 333, 359 or Religious Studies 363 and an additional 3 units (0.5 full-course equivalent) in Philosophy.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

We will carefully read, discuss, and analyze the assigned readings. Students will be expected to interpret and to comprehend quite difficult philosophical texts. Students will be trained to encounter ideas, and analyze writings, that are from non-Anglo-American cultural settings and are translated from European non-English languages. Students will also be trained to recognize ways in which recent continental European philosophy articulates concerns that are relevant for contemporary debates.

Students will be expected to write clearly, concisely, and coherently. They will further develop their competence in the public presentation of written ideas; this will include clear and complete referencing practices.

Students will be expected to contribute clearly and effectively to class discussions.

**Required Texts: It is essential that students use the translations and the editions listed below. Failure to do so will automatically result in an F (=0) for the paper.**

1. Barbara Cassin, *Google Me: One-Click Democracy*. Trans. Michael Syrotinski. New York: Fordham University Press, 2018. ISBN 13: 978-0-8232-7807-7.
2. Quentin Meillassoux, *After Finitude. An Essay on the Necessity of Contingency*. Trans. Ray Brassier. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2008. ISBN 13: 978-1-4411-7383-6.
3. Giorgio Agamben, *Karman. A Brief Treatise on Action, Guilt, and Gesture*. Trans. Adam Kotsko. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2018. ISBN 13: 978-1-5036-0582-4.
4. Jean-Luc Nancy, *The Disavowed Community*. Trans. Philip Armstrong. New York: Fordham University Press. ISBN 13: 978-0-8232-7385-0.

## Course Assessment

- **First essay (1000 words, give or take 50), worth 25%** of final grade, due at the beginning of class on **Mon. Feb. 4**
- **Second essay (1000 words, give or take 50), worth 25%** of final grade, due at the beginning of class on **Fri. March 8**.
- **Third Essay (1500 words, give or take 100), worth 40%** of final grade, due in the class drop-box (in Philosophy department, 12<sup>th</sup> floor Soc. Sci. tower) by **16:00 on Mon. April 15**.
- **Class Participation:** Worth **10%** of final grade. (This grade will be based on the extent of active involvement in the classes and on the extent of constructive contributions to class discussions.)
- There will be **NO** Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination.

Letter grades will be given. Those grades will be based on the following numerical system.

A+ = 90-100%	B = 74-76 %	C- = 60-63 %
A = 85-89 %	B- = 70-73 %	D+ = 55-59 %
A- = 80-84 %	C+ = 67-69 %	D = 50-54 %
B+ = 77-79 %	C = 64-66 %	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).

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

**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.** Papers may **only** be submitted directly to the instructor or left in the labelled drop-box for the course (in the main hall of the PHIL department, 12<sup>th</sup> floor Soc. Sci. Bldg.). **Papers sent by email will not be accepted.**

**Computers will be provisionally allowed in the classroom. If a student is using a computer for purposes other than class work, this policy will be reneged and thereafter no computers will be allowed for any student during class. Cellphones will not be used during the class. If a student uses a cellphone (for any purpose) during the class, the student will be asked to leave the classroom.**

## 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](http://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](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/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 – Undergraduate Program Director ([dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehanty – Honors Advisor ([mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mdelehan@ucalgary.ca)) or Allen Habib ([anh Habib@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anh Habib@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 Philosophy Department Undergraduate Program Administrator (UPA), Rebecca Lesser ([rebecca.lesser@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rebecca.lesser@ucalgary.ca)). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

### **Writing**

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](http://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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca) , [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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/>