



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 423 Lec 01 – “Metaphysics”
Fall Term 2016**

Course Outline

Lectures: TuTh 2.00-3.15 in SA 129

Instructor: Noa Latham
Office: SS 1250
Phone: 220-5528
Email: latham@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Tu 12.30-1.30, Th 3.20-4.20 and by appointment.

Course Description

We'll be examining what categories of existent we need to characterise the world. We'll look into the question whether there are fundamental features of the world upon which all the remaining features depend. And we'll be looking into what role laws play in the way the world works.

Required Reading

- David Armstrong, *Universals: An Opinionated Introduction* (available at Bookstore)
- Package of Supplementary Readings (available at Bound and Copied)

Course Requirements

A take-home midterm due Monday Oct 17 worth 15% of the final grade, two papers 1500-2100 words (5-7 pages) due Friday Nov 4 and Friday Dec 9 worth 30% each, and a Registrar scheduled final exam worth 25% of the final grade.

Final grades will be computed by D2L using the following scale:

A+	98-100	B+	86-89	C+	74-77	D+	62-65
A	94-97	B	82-85	C	70-73	D	58-61
A-	90-93	B-	78-81	C-	66-69	F	0-57

You are not required to complete all assignments to pass the course, but the grade for a missing assignment is 0. Class participation can boost your grade by as much as one grade step (e.g. from B to B+). I shall be using D2L to post assignments and grades, to confirm what we are reading for the next lecture, and to provide some questions to consider while you are reading.

All assignments are due 4pm in the course drop box opposite my office. Late assignments will be marked down by one grade step for each day of lateness. (The time between Fri and Mon counts as one day.) If you are anticipating any difficulty turning in your assignment on time you should discuss the problem with me before the due date.

Electronic Devices

Those wishing to use a computer to take notes are requested to sit in the back row of the class. Cell phones should be switched off for the duration of the class.

Tentative Schedule

Sep 13	Introduction	
Sep 15	Nominalism	Armstrong Chapter 1
Sep 20		Armstrong Chapter 2
Sep 22, 27		Armstrong Chapter 3
Sep 29, Oct 4	Bundle Theory	Armstrong Chapter 4
Oct 6	Universals	Plato <i>Republic</i> excerpts from books VI and X
Oct 11, 13		Armstrong Chapter 5
Oct 18	Tropes	D.C. Williams "The Elements of Being"
Oct 20		Keith Campbell "The Metaphysic of Abstract Particulars"
Oct 25		Armstrong Chapter 6
Oct 27		Armstrong Chapter 7
Nov 1	Objects and Events	Donald Davidson "The Individuation of Events"
Nov 3		Jonathan Bennett "Introduction to Events"
Nov 8		Noa Latham "Spatial and Spatiotemporal Particulars"
Nov 15		Peter van Inwagen "Doctrine of Arbitrary Undetached Parts"
Nov 17	Laws and Dispositions	David Lewis Introduction to <i>Collected Papers Vol 2</i>
Nov 22, 24		Barry Loewer "Humean Supervenience"
Nov 29, Dec 1		Alexander Bird "A Dispositionalist Conception of Laws"
Dec 6		Bigelow, Ellis and Lierse "The World as One of a Kind"
Dec 8		Tim Maudlin "The Whole Ball of Wax"

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, 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 more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require 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

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary'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. 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 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 Department Manager, Merlette Schnell, schnell@ucalgary.ca.

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 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building
and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2016:

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