



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 423 Lec 01 – “Metaphysics”**  
**Winter Term 2011**  
**Course Outline**

**Lectures: TuTh 12.30-1.45 in ST 027**

**Instructor:** Noa Latham

**Office:** SS 1250

**Phone:** 220-5528

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

**Office Hours:** Tu 2-3, Th 11-12, and by appointment.

**Course Description**

We'll be examining what categories of existence 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 Feb 14 worth 15% of the final grade, two papers 1800-2400 words (6-8 pages) due Mar 11 and April 15 worth 30% each, and a Registrar-scheduled final exam worth 25% of the final grade. The first three assignments are due by 4pm in the course drop box opposite my office.

Cumulative and final grades will be computed by Gradebook on the Blackboard site 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

Missing assignment = 0.

Late papers 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 in turning your assignment in 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 are not to be used in class.

## Course Website

A course website has been set up on U of C's Blackboardserver. You should be automatically signed up if you're registered in the class. Log in with your UCS user ID and password. You can find the website at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

I shall be using Blackboard to post assignments and grades, to confirm what we are reading for the next class, and to provide some questions to consider while you are reading.

## Tentative Schedule

Jan 11	Introduction	
Jan 13	Nominalism	Armstrong Chapter 1
Jan 18, 20		Armstrong Chapter 2
Jan 25, 27		Armstrong Chapter 3
Feb 1		David Lewis "New Work for a Theory of Universals"
Feb 3, 8	Bundle Theory	Armstrong Chapter 4
Feb 10	Universals	Plato <i>Republic</i> excerpts from books VI and X
Feb 15, 17		Armstrong Chapter 5
Feb 22, 24	Reading Week	
Mar 1, 3	Tropes	Armstrong Chapters 6, 7
Mar 8		D.C. Williams "The Elements of Being"
Mar 10		Keith Campbell "Metaphysic of Abstract Particulars"
Mar 15	Objects and Events	Donald Davidson "The Individuation of Events"
Mar 17		Jonathan Bennett "Introduction to Events"
Mar 22		Noa Latham "Spatial and Spatiotemporal Particulars"
Mar 24		Peter van Inwagen
Mar 29	Laws and Dispositions	David Lewis Introduction to <i>Collected Papers Vol 2</i>
Mar 31		Barry Loewer "Humean Supervenience"
Apr 5		Stephen Mumford "Laws and Dispositions"
Apr 7		Bigelow, Ellis and Lierse "The World as One of a Kind"
Apr 12		Tim Maudlin "The Whole Ball of Wax"
Apr 14		

## **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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan ([arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)), Lara Schmitz ([arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)), and Vincent St. Pierre ([arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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).