



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 451 Lec 01 – “Contemporary Ethical Theories”

Fall Term 2018 Course Outline
Lectures: TR 9:30 – 10:45, CHE 110

Instructor: Ish Haji
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Phone: 403-220-3165
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Office Hours: TR 10:55 - 11:55

Course Description

In this course, we undertake a detailed investigation of some central normative ethical theories, such as utilitarianism and Kantianism. Various accounts of goodness, for example, hedonism and preferentism, will be discussed as well. We will also examine topics on free will and responsibility.

Prerequisites

Two previous philosophy courses at least one of which must be at the 300 level or higher and one of which must be either 249 or 397; or consent of the department.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

1. Explain key ethical concepts, such as being obligatory, being intrinsically good, being supererogatory, being a prima facie duty, and being morally responsible.
2. Critically analyze philosophical texts on central normative ethical theories, such as utilitarianism, Kant’s deontology, or Ross’ pluralism.
3. Acquire in depth knowledge of central normative ethical theories.
4. Write a convincing argument for or against fundamental issues in ethics to be discussed, such as whether motives are relevant to obligation or whether hedonistic accounts are plausible accounts of personal welfare.
5. Engage in constructive oral argumentation regarding relevant concepts, principles, or theories introduced in the course.

Required Texts (including electronic resources)

Students will be supplied with a list of papers or book chapters. Each of these is available online in journals or in other venues to which our University Library subscribes. Links to the papers or chapters will be posted on D2L.

Course Assessment

(1) Three 4-5-page final papers, each worth 30% of the final grade. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in evaluation. Writing should be clear, coherent, and to the point.

UCalgary Academic Calendar: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

(2) Three Rough Drafts: For each paper you will write a one-page draft. At least one of your classmates and I will review this draft. Some of you may have your drafts workshopped by the class as a whole. These drafts are not graded, although a missing draft will reduce the grade of your final corresponding paper. (See the policy on late assignments below.)

Tentative Assignment Dates:

First draft paper:	Thursday, September 27
First final paper:	Thursday, October 4
Second draft paper:	Thursday, November 1
Second final paper:	Thursday, November 8
Third draft paper:	Thursday, November 29
Third final paper:	Thursday, December 6

(3) Seminar participation worth 10% of the final grade: You are expected to be an active participant in seminar (including draft-essay) discussions. Read the course material and have questions and comments ready. You cannot participate if you are not present. You are allowed naught (0) unexcused absences. Official and adequate documentation is required to justify an absence. For each unexcused absence, your grade for the next final paper that is due will be reduced by one full letter grade.

(4) There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

(5) There will be no provisions for “extra-credit.” A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole.

Grading Method

Each paper will be assigned a letter grade. You will also receive a letter grade for your participation. Your overall grade for the course will be an average of your letter grades on your papers and participation. Letter grades will be averaged by using the following scheme.

Conversion of Number Grades into Letter Grades

A+ = 100-96; A = 95-90; A- = 89-85; B+ = 84-80; B = 79-75; B- = 74-71; C+ = 70-67; C = 66-62; C- = 61-59; D+ = 58-54; D = 53-50; F = 49-0.

Policy on Late Assignments

No unexcused late final essays or drafts will be accepted without official and adequate documentation. Missing final essays will receive an “F” (a numerical score of zero). Each missing draft essay will reduce the grade of the final corresponding essay by two whole letter grades.

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.

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. 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 (dgdick@ucalgary.ca), Jack MacIntosh (macintos@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@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 Department Manager, Tram Nguyen (tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. 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.

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, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, 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/>