



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 453 Lec 01
Social and Political Philosophy
Winter 2022
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30-13:45 in SA 235

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: David Dick
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Office: SS 1224
Office Hours: By appointment
Office Phone: 403-220-6434

COURSE INFORMATION

This course intends to provide exposure to political philosophy through a focused engagement with the issue of economic justice. The class will seek to answer two related questions: 1) What is the proper way to allocate resources (monetary and otherwise) and 2) What is the proper role of the state in that allocation? Attention will be given to both theories of justice from historical and contemporary philosophers as well as to specific topics such as wealth, property, and tax.

PREREQUISITE(S)

[Philosophy 249](#) or [397](#); and 3 units in a course labelled Philosophy at the 300 level or above.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students in this class will gain or refine

- A deep knowledge of one central area of philosophical inquiry, political philosophy;
- An ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources;
- An ability to write and revise a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- An ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

All materials for this class will be indicated and made available via the D2L site for this class.
Available at: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Assessment Components and Grading Schemes

Weekly Questions:	20%	
Short Papers:	40%	(Details on due dates below.)
Final Paper:	40%	Due: Friday, April 22nd at 12:30 pm.

This course has no Registrar administered final exam, only a final paper.

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>

All work for this class is to be submitted to the Dropbox on the D2L site for this class.

To count for credit, weekly questions must be submitted to the Dropbox on D2L no later than classtime (12:30 pm) on the day their matching readings are assigned.

Short papers will not be accepted after their designated due date has passed.

Final papers are accepted late, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period overdue. So, an A- paper submitted in the first 24 hours after it was due will receive a B-, if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-, and so on. Once a paper is late, it should be submitted via email (to me at dgdick@ucalgary.ca) as soon as it is ready.

The final paper must be a revision of one of short papers. It is therefore not possible to pass the class without submitting at least one short paper that can then be revised into the final paper. A student submitting no short papers may not submit the final paper and they will receive an F (0.0) for both the short papers and long paper, guaranteeing a final grade of F (0.0) for the course.

Weekly Questions:

Each week on a class day of your choosing, I'd like you to submit a question based on the reading for the day that you submit the question. The question you write should convince me that you've read the day's reading, at least well enough to be confused by it. I'm not kidding: confusion is a philosophical heuristic, it either helps you identify a place where you don't understand, or where the argument doesn't make sense. Either one of these counts as philosophical progress. These questions and their explanations need not be any longer than about half a page. (I'll post an example of what I mean to D2L.)

Weekly questions are only accepted for credit when submitted to the Dropbox in D2L by 12:30 pm on the day the readings they are in response to are assigned. Ordinarily, only one weekly question can receive credit in a single week.

There are 13 weeks in the semester but you only owe me 10 weekly questions for the term. It's entirely up to you which weeks you'd like to pass on. Extra weekly questions beyond this 10 will be read, but will not count for any extra credit.

Short Papers:

Two short papers are required for this class. Their due dates are as follows:

First Short Paper:	Due no later than 12:30 pm on Friday, Feb 18
Second Short Paper:	Due no later than 12:30 pm on Friday, Mar 25

Short papers are accepted prior to their due dates, but not after. This means that even if the first short paper you submit arrives after the due date for the First Short Paper, but before the deadline for the Second Short Paper, it counts as the Second Short Paper.

Short papers will be graded pass/fail according to detailed specifications distributed before the first one is due. The letter grade for the Short Papers portion of the final grade calculation will be determined as follows:

2 Passing Short Papers = A (4.0)

1 Passing Short Paper=	B (3.0)
0 Passing Short Papers=	F (0.0)

Short papers will not be accepted after their designated due date has passed.

Final Papers:

The final paper is due Friday, April 22nd at 12:30 pm. Papers should be submitted to the Dropbox on D2L. It must be a revision of one of the student's previously submitted short papers. It will be graded on the 0.0-4.3 scale described below.

Detailed instructions for the final paper will be distributed in advance of this due date.

Final papers are accepted late, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period overdue. So, an A- paper submitted in the first 24 hours after it was due will receive a B-, if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-, and so on. Once a paper is late, it should be submitted via email (to me at dgdick@ucalgary.ca) as soon as it is ready.

Letter Grade Conversion Table

With the exception of short papers, all evaluated material will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the standard 4.0 scale:

4.3 – A+	3.3 – B+	2.3 – C+	1.3 – D+	0.0 – F
4.0 – A	3.0 – B	2.0 – C	1.0 – D	
3.7 – A–	2.7 – B–	1.7 – C–		

The arithmetic that will calculate your final grade will follow this formula:

$$(W. Questions).20 + (Short Papers).40 + (Final Paper).40 = \text{Final Grade}$$

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf.

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: ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

Absence or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Academic Advising

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>

for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy. Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director jfantl@ucalgary.ca) or David Dick (Honours Advisor dgdick@ucalgary.ca).

Writing Assessment and Support

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success.

Required Technology

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L

Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/>. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the [University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy](#).

Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Academic Misconduct/Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is 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. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).