



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 461-01**  
**Epistemology**  
**Fall Term 2016**

**Course Outline**

**Instructor: Reid Buchanan**

**Office: SS1220**

**Phone: 220-3168**

**Office Hours: MWF 12:30 – 1:00**

**[E-mail: buchanar@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanar@ucalgary.ca)**

**Lectures: MWF 2:00 – 2:50**

**Location: MS 217**

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

*Epistemology: An Anthology* (Any Edition), Ernest Sosa and Jaegwon Kim (eds.), (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd.)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:** Perhaps the most crucial concern of traditional epistemology is whether the justification of (or the *evidence* for) our beliefs and claims to knowledge is sufficient. As a way to focus traditional and contemporary developments and debates concerning, e.g., the nature and conditions of sufficient justification/evidence (such as the “Internalist/Externalist” debate) or the structure of justification/evidence (such as the “Foundationalist/Coherentist” debate) it is instructive to explore such issues in terms of the extent to which they are motivated by, and the extent to which they avoid, the threat of philosophical scepticism – the view that the evidential bases for knowledge are insufficient. The primary objective of the course is to provide exposure to the depth, complexity (and often perplexity) of epistemological inquiry, and to equip students with the skills to engage in such inquiry. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course.

**COURSE WORK AND EVALUATION:** The course work will consist of two in-class exams, a quiz, and a term paper (4-6 pages). There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam. A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not essential to pass the course as a whole. The weight for each requirement is as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>% of Course Grade</u>	<u>Date</u>
Exam 1	30	October 14
Exam 2	30	November 16
Quiz	10	December 14
Paper	30	December 12

## **ASSIGNMENT OF LETTER GRADES:**

Letter grades will be assigned in accordance with the following scale:

0-45	F	71-75	B-
46-50	D	76-80	B
51-55	D+	81-85	B+
56-60	C-	86-90	A-
61-65	C	91-95	A
66-70	C+	96-100	A+

**COURSE POLICIES:** I expect that the course will proceed in accordance with the course schedule. However, unforeseen contingencies, e.g., particular difficulty or ease with a section of the course, may necessitate changes in the content covered on the dates listed on the schedule.

### Attendance

Attendance is not mandatory, but I do expect you to make every effort to be present at each session. Excepting extraordinary circumstances, I expect advance notice that you will be unable to attend class for an exam or to submit an assignment by the due date.

### How to Contact Me

You can see me during my office hours or make an appointment to see me at some other time. If you wish to make an appointment, please contact me directly by telephone or E-mail. Perhaps the best way to reach me is through E-mail, which I typically check a number of times each day. I should also mention that I encourage you to offer me feedback about any aspect of the course — it is important for me to know how you think things are going, and to be flexible enough to adjust to your needs.

### Missed and Late Course Work

Medical or other formal documentation will be required for a missed exam. Without suitable documentation, you will not be permitted to re-schedule the exam, and you will receive a grade of zero. Late take-home finals will lose 25% of their value each day (or portion of the day) that they are late unless accompanied by medical or other documentation. After four days, late take-homes without documentation will not be accepted and you will receive a score of zero.

### **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](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](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/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](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://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](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca))