



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 467 Lec 01**  
**“Problems in the Philosophy of Science”**

**Winter Term 2015**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00AM - 12:15PM in SS1253

**Instructor:** C. K. Waters  
**Email:** [ckwaters@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ckwaters@ucalgary.ca)

**Office:** Social Science Building 1212  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30 pm

**Course Description**

This course will focus on how scientists should investigate and explain human behaviour. Different groups of scientists take different approaches, and we will examine several approaches. We will start by concentrating on one approach, behavioural genetics. This is a good place to begin because it will provide an opportunity to analyze the nature/nurture controversy. Then we will examine several additional approaches, including social-environmental, molecular-genetic, and neurobiological approaches. We will pursue our study by reading and critiquing two recent books on the philosophy of human-behavioural science: *Beyond Versus: The Struggle to Understand the Interaction of Nature and Nurture* by James Tabery and *Studying Human Behavior: How Scientists Investigate Aggression & Sexuality* by Helen Longino.

**Required Texts**

*Beyond Versus: The Struggle to Understand the Interaction of Nature and Nurture*, by James Tabery, 2014, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

*Studying Human Behavior: How Scientists Investigate Aggression & Sexuality*, by Helen Longino, 2013, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Required readings from other sources will be assigned, but no additional reading materials will need to be purchased.

**Course Requirements**

- Reading: Reading assignments will be given in each class for the following class. Students are required to read each assigned reading selection at least twice.
- Six question answers: Questions will be posed at the end of each class about the reading assignment for the next class. Some questions will ask for an *argument analysis*. An argument analysis should (a) clearly state a claim that is argued for in the upcoming reading assignment, (b) reconstruct the author’s argument for that claim, and (c) critically analyze the author’s argument. Other questions will ask for descriptions of important concepts,

theses, or distinctions in the upcoming reading. Each answer should be 500 – 750 words and turned in as a PDF file to [ckwaters@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ckwaters@ucalgary.ca).

- Two questions-for-author: Students will compose at least one well-developed question for each book author (Tabery and Longino). Each question should be submitted as an email message to [ckwaters@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ckwaters@ucalgary.ca).
- Two response reports: For each author (Tabery and Longino), students will write reports (500 – 750 words) describing one of the questions posed to the author, the author's response, and a brief critique of the author's response. Each report should be turned in as a PDF file to [ckwaters@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ckwaters@ucalgary.ca).
- One critical essay review. Students will write an essay review of one of the two books covered in this course. The review should describe the central claims and supporting arguments in the book (in an informative and sympathetic way), and then critically examine at least one of these claims and the support offered in favor of it. Students may choose which of the two books they wish to review. The essay should be approximately 3,500 words (word count does not including bibliography). Reviews should be submitted in two forms: as hard copies in class and as a PDF file to [ckwaters@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ckwaters@ucalgary.ca). Style guideline will be distributed.

All eleven of the above written requirements must be turned in to pass this course. The questions-for-authors, response reports, and critical essays may be shared with class members for discussion purposes.

There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course.

### **Due Dates**

- Readings: Reading assignments will be given in each class for the following class. Students are required to read each assigned reading selection at least once before the class in which it is discussed and at least once after the class in which it is discussed (and before the next class).
- Question answers: due by noon on the Monday or the Wednesday *before* we discuss the reading in class. At least two question answers must cover *Beyond Versus* and at least two must cover *Studying Human Behavior*. At least one question answer must be submitted by Monday, January 19 (before noon via email); at least two must be submitted by Wednesday, January 28 (before noon via email); at least three by Monday, February 9 (before noon via email); at least 4 must be submitted by Monday, March 2 (before noon via email); at least 5 must be submitted by Wednesday, March 11 (before noon via email); at least 6 by Monday, March 23. Some of the deadlines for question answers may be postponed slightly, and if they are, students will be notified about the postponement by email.
- Questions-for-authors: To be announced.
- Response reports: To be announced
- Critical essay review: Hard copy and PDF due by the beginning of class on Thursday, April 9.

### **Late Work Policy**

Late question answers and questions-for-authors will not be accepted. Other late work will be accepted with no grade penalty if students have a legitimate, documented excuse. Grades on non-excused response reports and critical essay reviews will be lowered according to penalty schedules that will be announced for individual assignments. Early work is accepted and students are strongly encouraged to get all written work in on time. Please see the instructor if you have any questions about the late work policy.

## Grade weightings

A total of 200 points is possible:

- Six question answers: 60 points (10 points apiece)
- Two questions-for-authors: 10 points (5 points apiece)
- Two response reports: 50 points (25 points apiece)
- Critical essay: 80 points

## Letter Grade Conversion Table

192-200 = A+	150-159 = B	110-119 = C-
180-191 = A	140-149 = B-	100-109 = D+
170-179 = A-	130-139 = C+	90-99 = D
160-169 = B+	120-129 = C	below 90 = F

### Academic Honesty

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, 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

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for 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. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

### D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's learning management system which has now replaced BlackBoard. Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

### Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/> for more 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 current 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 instructor of the course.

### 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.

### Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).