



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 471
Winter Term 2019

Course Outline

Philosophy of Language
Meetings: TR 11-12:15, SH 288

Instructor: David Liebesman
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Email: david.liebesman@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Tues 1-3

Course Description: We'll investigate a number of key topics in philosophy of language such as speech acts, meaning, and the social aspects of communication.

Prerequisites: PHIL 279 or 377

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students who complete this course will have a grasp of some of the key theoretical issues that underlie the philosophy of language. Students will be required to write and revise a term paper, review their peer's work, utilize library resources, and succinctly summarize key positions and advances in philosophy of language.

Course Assessment: Two Exams, worth 25% of the grade, each. One quiz, worth 10%. A paper, worth 40%, broken down as follows: 3% for rough draft, 5% for peer review, and 32% for the final draft. Due dates are given in the schedule below.

Schedule

- Jan. 10: Class Cancelled (optional makeup on Jan. 25, 3-4:15 PM in SS 1253)
- Jan. 15, 17: Overview, and the very existence of languages; Reading: 'Do Languages Exist?' by Tomlinson.
- Jan 22, 24: Grice's theory of implicature; Reading: *Logic and Conversation* by Grice.
- Jan 29, 31: Metaphor (can a Gricean theory work?); Reading: 'Metaphor and What is Said' by Bezuidenhout, and 'Contextualism, Metaphor, and What is Said' by Camp.
- Feb. 5: Exam 1
- Feb. 7, 12, 14: Searle on Speech Acts; Reading: chapters 2 and 3 of *Speech Acts* by Searle.
- Feb. 26, 28: Speech Acts as Oppression; Reading: 'Oppressive Speech' by McGowan.
- March 5, 7: Definite Descriptions and Logical Form; Reading: 'On Denoting' by Russell.
- March 14: Exam 2
- March 19, 21: Events and Logical Form; Reading: 'The Logical Form of Action Sentences' by Davidson.
- March 26: Paper Drafts due
- March 26, 28: Sense and Reference; Reading: 'On Sense and Reference' by Frege.
- April 2: Peer Reviews due
- April 2, 4: Anti-Descriptivism; Reading: lecture 2 of *Naming and Necessity* by Kripke.
- April 9, 11: The Contingent A Priori; Reading: 'Ways of Taking a Meter' by Jeshion.
- April 13: Final papers due.

Required Books:

- *Naming and Necessity*, by Kripke
- *Speech Acts*, by Searle
- *Studies in the Way of Words*, by Grice

Letter Grade Conversion Table

A+	96–100 %	C+	67-69.9 %
A	91-95.9 %	C	64-66.9 %
A-	86-90.9 %	C-	60-63.9 %
B+	80-85.9 %	D+	55-59.9 %
B	75-79.9 %	D	50-54.9 %
B-	70-74.9 %	F	0- 49.9 %

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 – Undergraduate Program Director (dgdick@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty – Honors Advisor (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca) or Allen Habib (anhabib@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 Philosophy Department Undergraduate Program Administrator (UPA), Rebecca Lesser (rebecca.lesser@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

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/>