



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 499 Lec 02
“Topics in Philosophy: The Good Life”
Fall Term 2022
Thursdays, 3:30 – 6:15 p.m.
HNSC 124A

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Chris Framarin (he/him)

Email: chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca (best means of contact)

Email Policy: All course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email. I will respond to emails within 48 hours outside of weekends and holidays.

Office: SS 1236

Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 2:00 and by appointment. Office hours are on Zoom only. The link to office hours will be posted to D2L.

Office Phone: 403-220-5532 (but email is best means of contact)

Land Acknowledgment

The University of Calgary resides upon the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut’ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. The University of Calgary is situated on land adjacent to where the Bow River meets the Elbow River; the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is “Moh’kins’tsis”, which we now call the City of Calgary.

ii’ taa’poh’to’p, the Blackfoot name of the University of Calgary’s [Indigenous Strategy](#), was bestowed and transferred in ceremony by Kainai Elder Andy Black Water on June 21, 2017. The name signifies a place to rejuvenate and re-energize while on a journey. Traditionally, these places are recognized as safe, caring, restful – and offer renewed energy for an impending journey. In a traditional naming ceremony, transitioning into the new name is a journey of transformation towards self-actualization.

Course Description

In this course, we will evaluate competing analyses of the good life, where ‘the good life’ refers to a life that is intrinsically good for the person whose life it is. We will consider some of the following questions, among others: What makes a life intrinsically good for the person whose life it is? What is the relationship between the good life and the happy life? How does freedom contribute to the good life? Does a good life require meaning of a particular sort? How do desire and pleasure contribute to and/or detract from the value of a life?

Prerequisite

Prerequisite(s): 6 units in courses labelled Philosophy, of which, 3 units must be in History of Philosophy ([Philosophy 301](#), [303](#), [305](#), [307](#), [309](#), [311](#), [401](#), [403](#), [405](#), [407](#), [408](#), [411](#), [505](#), [507](#)) and 3 units must be at the 400 level or above.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Students will read and summarize the written work of authors on the topic of well-being/welfare/the good life in groups and in writing.

Students will evaluate the arguments of authors for cogency in groups and in writing.

Students will advance original/innovative arguments for their own positions in groups and in writing.

Students will work respectfully in groups, working to charitably understand the views of others, and contribute to an open, safe intellectual environment.

Required Readings

Feldman, Fred. 2012. *What is This Thing Called Happiness?* (Oxford: OUP) (available at the university book store as an e-book rental)

Wolf, Susan. 2012. *Meaning in Life and Why It Matters* (Oxford: OUP) (paperback copy available at the university book store)

Additional papers and chapters posted to D2L

Course Requirements

Paper One (Thursday, Oct. 13)	25%
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Paper Two (Thursday, Nov. 17)	35%
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Final Paper (Thursday, Dec. 8)	40%
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Missed or Late Assignments:

Papers must be turned in on the day they are due, at the start of class, with the exception of the Final Paper, which must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Papers should be submitted to the relevant folder on Dropbox on D2L.

There will be no registrar-scheduled final exam.

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each exam. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

96-100 = A+	80-84.9 = B+	65-69.9 = C+	53-54.9 = D+
90-95.9 = A	75-79.9 = B	60-64.9 = C	50-52.9 = D
85-89.9 = A-	70-74.9 = B-	55-59.9 = C-	< 50 = F

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

Expectations for Writing:

Exams will be graded on organization, clarity, accuracy, and originality. I will not grade exams based on grammar or spelling directly, but grammar errors can indirectly affect the grade by diminishing the clarity of writing.

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>).