



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 517 – Advanced Topics in the History & Philosophy of Science
Lec 01, Topic 1- “Mechanism”**

Fall Term 2010

Course Outline

**Lectures: Monday, 12:00 – 14:30 in EDC 284
(Meets jointly with PHIL 667)**

Instructor: Dr. Megan Delehanty

Office: SS 1240

Phone: 403-220-2828

Email: mdelehan@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Mondays 16:00-17:00, or by appointment

Course Description

This course will be an examination of mechanism and mechanical philosophy. We will begin with ancient atomists, move through the early modern period (e.g., Gassendi, Descartes, Newton), and finish with the contemporary resurgence of mechanism in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Required Texts

There is no required text. Weekly readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Evaluation

Weekly Summaries	30%
Ten weekly summaries of readings (3% each). These are due at the beginning of class each week. They are strictly pass/fail. Since there are 13 weeks of term (12 for which there are assigned readings), you may skip 2 weeks of your choice.	
Class Presentation	20%
Each student will do a 20-30 minutes in-class presentation on one of the weekly readings. The schedule for these presentations will be determined in class	
Term Paper	50%
Length should be ~12-15 pages. Due <u>Friday, December 10, by 12:00 noon.</u>	

It is not necessary to pass any one individual component to pass the class as a whole.

There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

As specified in the University Calendar, course outlines are now required to “Indicate when writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of the student’s work. (See E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum statement.)” Writing and the grading thereof is very much a factor in the evaluation of your work in this course. Your writing should be clear, coherent, and well-organized. Your arguments should be clear and comprehensible to the reader: grammatical and other errors that make your argument unclear or incomprehensible will result in a lower grade.

Grading Scale

95-100 = A+	78-80 = B+	68-70 = C+	58-60 = D+
85-94 = A	75-77 = B	65-67 = C	50-57 = D
81-84 = A-	71-74 = B-	61-64 = C-	< 50 = F

Policy on Late Assignments

No late assignments or make-up exams are permitted unless a medical note is provided and/or permission is granted by the instructor *prior* to the set date.

It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the lectures, assignments, and due dates for assignments.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal 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.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are Laura Golebiowski (arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan (arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), Lara Schmitz (arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), and Vincent St. Pierre (arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. 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 unless other arrangements have been made in writing and filed with the Department Administrator.

SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).