



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 517.3 Lec 01
Advanced Topics in the History and Philosophy of Science:
Historical Narratives and Historicity
Winter Term 2016

Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:15 pm in SS 1253

Course Outline

Instructor: Marc Ereshefsky

Phone: 403-220-3162

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-4:30

(but not Jan 12, Feb 9, and March 8), and my appointment

Office: SS1204

Email: ereshefs@ucalgary.ca

Course Description

Philosophical theories of natural kinds tend to assume that ultimately there will be one correct theory of natural kinds reflecting the way the world is fundamentally divided. The phrase one often hears in philosophy is that natural kinds 'carve nature at its joints.' This seminar will explore how philosophers can offer a more scientifically informed and more pragmatic approach to natural kinds. We will start the seminar by reading and discussing foundational articles on natural kinds to get us up to speed on the topic. We will then turn to articles selected by graduate students related to their research as well as several articles selected by visitors to the Philosophy Department.

Course Work

Daily Question Assignment

- For each class meeting please bring a one-sentence question from the reading we are discussing in class that day. The assignment should also contain a three to six sentence paragraph briefly explaining why you are raising that question.
- The question may be remedial, seeking an account of an important claim or argument in the reading that you could not follow. Or the question could be more critical in nature, alluding to a weakness in the paper. Or the question could be probing, identifying an issue that is raised by the reading or a possible implication of the reading.
- Please hand in a hard copy of the assignment at the beginning of class.

Papers

Three papers are required for this class. The first two will have assigned topics. The third paper will have assigned topics, but you can also propose your own topic for this paper. The maximum length for each paper is 2,000 words (including footnotes but not references).

Due Dates, Assignment Values, and Grade Scale

No late assignments will be accepted without an appropriate excuse.

No Registrar-scheduled final will be given.

Assignment	Due date	Points
24 Daily Questions	Beginning of each class	24 points (1 apiece)
Paper 1	February 22	20 points
Paper 2	March 22	25 points
Paper 3	April 22	25 points
Just for enrolling in this class		6 points

Final grades will be awarded as follows

96-100 = A+	75-79 = B	55-59 = C-
90-95 = A	70-74 = B-	50-54 = D+
85-89 = A-	65-69 = C+	45-49 = D
80-84 = B+	60-64 = C	below 45 = F

Readings

Our first reading will be from the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (on-line and open access) entry on 'Natural Kinds.' (We will read from the revised version of Jan 27, 2015). We will not read the entire entry, just selections. A reading from that entry will be assigned for our first class.

Subsequent readings will be announced throughout the semester. Readings will be available through the e-journal collection of the University Library.

Course Schedule

Weeks 1 – 7 of class will be devoted to reading and discussing foundational readings on natural kinds, classification, and scientific practice. Weeks 8 - 11 of class will be devoted to reading and discussing readings related to the graduate students' research. The final two weeks of class will be devoted to discussing drafts of graduate student research papers.

Style and Citation Requirements

- All written work for this course should be submitted as hard copies. Your submissions should be double-spaced, with 12 point font and 1 inch margins. Please number your pages.
- Whenever you quote someone, provide the source and page numbers from that source. Here's an example: Dr. Black writes that "all kittens are incredibly cute" (1993, p. 46). '(1993, p. 46)' refers to the article or book and page number where Dr. Black says that. Place detailed information about the article or book in your bibliography.
- Whenever you attribute a view or idea to a person, provide the source and page number where that claim is made. Here's an example: Dr. White likes kittens, but argues that puppies are far cuter (1994, p. 333).
- Use the following method for listing articles and books in your bibliography.
 - Smith, D. (1997) "A Theory of Cats," *Philosophy of Science* 44: 60-88.
 - Smith, D. (1998) *A New Theory of Cats*, Blackwell Publishers.
 - Smith, D. (1992) "A Theory of Great Cats," in J. Armstrong (ed.) *An Anthology on Theories of Great Cats*, Oxford University Press, 60-88.
 - Canto, P. (2006). "A Theoretical Discussion of Cats." <http://ohiou.edu/CatTheory>.
 The first entry is for an article, the second for a book, the third for a chapter in an edited book, and the fourth for a web site.

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

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

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary'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. 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 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 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 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR WINTER 2016:

Jeremy Fantl (Undergrad Director) jfantl@ucalgary.ca

Chris Framarin chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) migotti@ucalgary.ca

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)