



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

**PHIL 574.11 Lec 01**  
**Advanced Topics in Applied Ethics:**  
**The Ethics of Currency**  
Winter 2021

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor Name:** David Dick  
**Email:** dgdict@ucalgary.ca

**COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION**

Hybrid Online Delivery.

Synchronous meetings on Wednesday from 17:00-19:00, with additional asynchronous elements.

**PREREQUISITE(S)**

6 units of courses labelled Philosophy, of which, 3 units must be from Philosophy 249, 397, 425, 449, 453 and 3 units of which must be at the 400 level or above.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Recent philosophical work on money has largely focused on the ontological question of what money is and can be. This course aims to expand the philosophical investigation of money to include the moral and political question of what money should be. This will involve considering the history and ontology of money as well as the moral and political considerations that ought to govern the form that money takes.

**Course Learning Outcomes:** Students in this class will gain or refine

- An ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources;
- An ability to write and revise a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- An ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

**REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS**

Required Textbook:

Goldstein, Jacob (2020) *Money: The True Story of A Made-Up Thing* New York: Hachette Books  
Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-316-41719-8  
E-Book ISBN-13: 9780316417181

All other materials will be provided or indicated via the D2L site for this course available at [d2l.ucalgary.ca](https://d2l.ucalgary.ca)

**COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

**Course Assessment**

Weekly Questions:	30%	
Suggested Source Paper:	10%	Due: No later than Wed, Mar 21 at 12:00 noon
Short Papers:	30%	(Details on due dates below.)
Final Paper:	30%	Due: Wednesday, April 21 at 12:00 noon

This course has no Registrar administered final exam, only a final paper.

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Weekly questions are to be submitted via the Dropbox feature of the D2L site for this class by 12:00 noon the day before the readings are scheduled to be discussed. So for each Wednesday class, the matching Weekly Question is due by 12:00 noon on the Tuesday of that week.

Suggested Source Papers must be submitted via the Dropbox feature of the D2L site for this class prior to Wednesday, Mar 21 at 12:00 noon.

Short papers will not be accepted after their designated due date has passed.

Final papers are accepted late, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period overdue. So, an A- paper submitted in the first 24 hours after it was due will receive a B-, if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-, and so on. Once a paper is late, it should be submitted via email (to me at [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) as soon as it is ready.

The final paper must be a revision of one of the two short papers. It is therefore not possible to submit and receive credit for the final paper without submitting at least one short paper that can then be revised into the final paper. A student submitting no short papers may not submit the final paper and will receive an F (0.0) for both the short papers and final paper.

Weekly Questions:

Each week, I'd like you to submit a question based on the reading for the day that you submit the question. The question you write should convince me that you've read the day's reading, at least well enough to be confused by it. I'm not kidding: confusion is a philosophical heuristic, it either helps you identify a place where you don't understand, or where the argument doesn't make sense. Either one of these counts as philosophical progress. These questions and their explanations need not be any longer than about half a page. (I'll post an example of what I mean to D2L.)

We will meet for 13 weeks this semester but you only owe me 10 weekly questions for the term. It's entirely up to you which weeks (beyond the first week) you'd like to pass on. Extra weekly questions beyond this 10 will not count for any extra credit.

Weekly questions must be submitted via the Dropbox feature of the D2L site for this class.

Suggested Source Papers:

Each student in this course will be required to submit a paper suggesting a source (book, paper, article, etc.) that is relevant to the subject matter for this course and arguing that it ought to be included in the reading list for the class. This will involve explaining the details of the suggested source and the case for why the class ought to consider it together.

A source is only eligible for suggestion if it is not already on the posted list of known sources for the course, and a suggested source paper cannot pass if it suggests a source already posted to the list. The reading list for the course and the posted list of known sources will be left deliberately incomplete at the beginning of the term, but it will be in a student's interest to complete this assignment as early as possible, since eligible sources may be eliminated as the reading list and list of known sources is periodically updated.

Suggested Source papers are due no later than Wednesday, Mar 21 at 12:00 noon.

#### Short Papers:

Two short papers are required for this class. Their due dates are as follows:

First Short Paper:	Due no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, <b>Feb 12</b>
Second Short Paper:	Due no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, <b>Mar 19</b>

Short papers are accepted prior to their due dates, but not after. This means that even if the first short paper you submit arrives after the due date for the First Short Paper, but before the deadline for the Second Short Paper, it counts as the Second Short Paper.

Short papers must be submitted via the Dropbox feature of the D2L site for this class.

Short papers will be graded pass/fail according to a detailed checklist and rubric available on D2L. The letter grade for the Short Papers portion of the final grade calculation will be determined as follows:

2 Passing Short Papers =	A (4.0)
1 Passing Short Paper=	B (3.0)
0 Passing Short Papers=	F (0.0)

Short papers will not be accepted after their designated due date has passed.

#### Final Papers:

The final paper is due Wednesday, April 21 at 12:00 noon. It must be a revision of one of the student's previously submitted short papers. It will be graded on the 0.0-4.3 scale described below.

Detailed instructions for the final paper will be distributed in advance of this due date.

Final papers are accepted late, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period overdue. So, an A- paper submitted in the first 24 hours after it was due will receive a B-, if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-, and so on. Final papers are to be submitted via the Dropbox feature of the D2L site for this class.

#### Letter Grade Conversion Table

With the exception of short papers, all evaluated material will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the standard 4.0 scale:

4.3 – A+	3.3 – B+	2.3 – C+	1.3 – D+	0.0 – F
4.0 – A	3.0 – B	2.0 – C	1.0 – D	
3.7 – A–	2.7 – B–	1.7 – C–		

The arithmetic that will calculate your final grade will follow this formula:

$(W. Questions).30 + (Suggested Source Paper).10 + (Short Papers).30 + (Final Paper).30 = \text{Final Grade}$

## **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/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/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/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.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/Registrar/registration/course-outlines](https://ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines)

- 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 [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit [phil.ucalgary.ca](https://phil.ucalgary.ca). Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@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/ssc](https://ucalgary.ca/ssc).

### **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 [ucalgary.service-now.com/it](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](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](https://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/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf)

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at [ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip](https://ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip). 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 ([ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act ([laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).