



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 549 Lec 01**  
**“Advanced Topics in Ethics” (Freedom and Value)**  
**Fall Term 2022**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Lectures: M,W 2:00 – 3:15**

**Instructor: Ish Haji**

**Email: [ihaji@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ihaji@ucalgary.ca)**

**Office Hours: MW 12:50 – 1:50**

**COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION**

(1) Lecture: Synchronous Delivery. Online Discussions via Zoom (M, W 2:00 to 3:15). (2) Handouts for course modules will be posted on D2L under *Content*. Among other things, they contain summaries of lectures. Announcements for what you should study on your handouts each week for the weekly online discussions will be posted on D2L. Handouts are copyrighted. (3) Instructor’s office hours: M,W 12:55 – 1:55. You may contact the instructor via Zoom during the instructor’s office hours.

**PREREQUISITES**

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

**COURSE INFORMATION**

This course explores the nature of moral obligation and moral responsibility by addressing the following issues. (i) Are the freedom requirements of responsibility and obligation analogous or do they differ substantially? (ii) Does determinism threaten responsibility or obligation on the basis of these requirements? (iii) Are responsibility and obligation susceptible to change over time? (iv) Does how one acquires one’s values influence whether one can be responsible for one’s conduct or have obligations?

**COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students should be able to

1. Explain key concepts concerning free action, obligation, and responsibility.
2. Critically analyze philosophical texts on free action, obligation, and responsibility.
3. Acquire in depth knowledge of the freedom requirements of obligation.
4. Write a convincing argument for or against fundamental issues to be discussed concerning free action, obligation, and responsibility.
5. Engage in constructive oral argumentation regarding relevant concepts, principles, or theories introduced in the course.

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

Students will be supplied with a list of papers or book chapters. Each of these is available online in journals or other venues to which our University Library subscribes.

## **COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

(1) Three five-page papers. The first paper will be worth 30% of the final grade. The second and third papers will each be worth 35% of the final grade. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in evaluation. Writing should be clear, coherent, and to the point.

(2) Three Summaries: For each paper you will write a one-page summary. You will present your summary in a lecture session and it may be workshopped by the class as a whole. These summaries are not graded, although a missing, ill prepared, or ill presented summary will reduce the grade of your corresponding paper by two whole letter grades. (See the policy on late assignments below.)

Tentative Assignment Dates:

First summary: Tuesday, September 27 by 8:30 am.  
First paper: Wednesday, October 5 by 8:30 am.  
Second summary: Tuesday, October 25 by 8:30 am.  
Second paper: Wednesday, November 2 by 8:30 am.  
Third summary: Tuesday, November 29 by 8:30 am.  
Third paper: Wednesday, December 7 by 8:30 am.

(3) You are expected to be an active participant in class discussions. Read the course material and have questions and comments ready.

(4) There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

(5) There will be no provisions for "extra-credit." A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole.

(6) Students should contact the instructor if they anticipate that a required component of the course will be late or missing.

(7) Prior to the withdrawal deadline, students must have received grades for a minimum 30% of the course grade.

## **Grading Method**

Each paper will be assigned a letter grade. The student's overall grade for the course will be an average of the student's letter grades on the student's papers. Letter grades will be averaged by using the following scheme.

Conversion of Number Grades into Letter Grades

A+ = 100-96; A = 95-90; A- = 89-85; B+ = 84-80; B = 79-75; B- = 74-71; C+ = 70-67; C = 66-62; C- = 61-59; D+ = 58-54; D = 53-50; F = 49-0.

## **Late or Missing Assignments**

No unexcused late essays or summaries will be accepted without adequate justification (see *Absence or Missed Course Assessments* below). Missing essays will receive an “F” (a numerical score of zero). Each missing summary will reduce the grade of the corresponding essay by two whole letter grades.

## **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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy). Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)) or David Dick (Honours Advisor [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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-](https://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](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](http://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](http://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>).