



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 553.3 Lec 1 – Advanced Topics in Political Philosophy:  
“Distributive Justice”**

**Winter Term 2015**  
**Course Outline**

**Meetings:** Thursdays, 6:00-8:45 in SS 006

**Instructor:** Allen Habib  
**Office:** Social Science 1228  
**Phone:** 403-220-6461  
**Email:** [anhabib@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anhabib@ucalgary.ca)

**Course Description**

This is a seminar in political philosophy, with a focus on the concept of distributive justice in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century, from John Rawls to the present day. We will cover topics like the scope of justice, the currency of justice and the nature of the goods of distribution. We will end with a consideration of distributive justice towards future generations.

**Required Texts**

We will use a combination of journal articles, essays in collections and chapters from books. All the texts will be available on-line, either through the University’s library site or otherwise.

**Evaluation**

The students will be responsible for ten short précis (1-2 pages) of the weekly readings over the course of the semester, due at the beginning of the weekly meetings. There will also be one research paper, 12-14 pages in length (~4000 words) due at the end of term on **Tuesday, April 14**.

**Grade Breakdown**

The précis count for 20% of the final grade, and the final paper 80%.  
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>

There is **no** Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.

**Grading Method**

A letter grade from D to A will be assessed for each assignment. The final grade will be calculated by using the GPA equivalents, with the following distribution:

A+ =4.0	A=4.0	A-=3.7
B+=3.3	B=3.0	B-=2.7
C+=2.3	C=2.0	C-=1.7
D+=1.3	D=1.0	F=0

A+ is awarded for outstanding work, although its GPA value is identical to an A grade.

## Policy on Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted on a case-by-case basis, with some penalty attached, generally not more than one letter grade per week. There will be a drop box for the course, located in the philosophy department offices, on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the social science building. The boxes are emptied daily at 4:00 pm.

## 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

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for 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. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

## D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's learning management system which has now replaced BlackBoard. Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

## Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/> for more 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.

## Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR WINTER 2015:

Chris Framarin (Undergrad Director) [chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca)

Reid Buchanan [buchanan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanan@ucalgary.ca)

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) [migotti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:migotti@ucalgary.ca)

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