



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 553.4 Lec 01**  
**“Advanced Topics in Political Philosophy—Politics of Food”**  
**Winter Term 2020**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: MW 2-3:15 SS 1253**

**Going forward, we will hold Zoom meetings at these times**

**Instructor:** Ann Levey

**Office:** SS 1248B

**Home Phone:** 403-283-5835

**Email:** levey@ucalgary.ca

**Office Hours:** I will be available for skype chats on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30. Students who wish to meet by skype during these times must make an appointment. I will also make an effort to answer all questions posted to me on D2L with in 24 hours. Students who lack internet contact can call me if needed.

**Course Description**

Eating is a political activity. Our food consumption habits embed us in relationships with the state (government), with other people both locally and globally, and with animals and the environment. They also reflect aspects of our identity such as gender, class, race and culture. This course aims at making more visible some of the political relationships embedded with in the production, regulation and consumption of food. We will examine these issues from both a theoretical and personal perspective. Topics to be covered include food regulation and distribution (theories: liberty and paternalism, trust); food insecurity, food sovereignty and food waste (theories: property rights and distribution, autonomy, oppression); food production (theories: gender, race, class, oppression); and (maybe) food and identity (theories: gender, culture). As part of the course, students will be required to reflect on their own food habits and how they are personally embedded within a web of political relationships through the consumption of food.

**Warning:** A requirement of this course will be that students experiment with eating and food shopping habits, as well as reflect on their own eating habits. People with a history of eating disorders may find this aspect of the course problematic.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- Understanding of some foundational issues in political philosophy and how these relate to our production, regulation and consumption of food
- Understanding of one’s own role in the food production/consumption system
- Ability to work with others on a group project
- Ability to write a research paper in philosophy
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

**Perequisites:**

Two previous courses in Philosophy, one of which must be 249, 397, 425, 449 or 453 and at least one of which must be a 400 level or higher.

## Required Texts:

- Alexander Plakias, *Thinking Through Food*, Broadview Press, 2019
- Other readings will be made available through D2L

## Course Assessment

- Food journal 15 %
  - Keep a food journal for the first 4 weeks of the course (due on D2L January 20, January 27, February 5, and February 12)
- Food activity assignments (2x 15%) 30%
  - Students are required to undertake 2 food activity assignments (due on D2L March 23 and April 15)
  - The second food activity assignment can be reflections on alterations to your food purchasing and consumption under conditions of corona virus shutdowns. Full details will be posted on D2L.
- Reading reflection/responses (x8) 10%
  - due Mondays (starting January 20) on D2L by 8 a.m.
  - You must complete 8 of these during the course of the semester
- Group project 10%
  - Students will be assigned to groups to work on group projects. These can be done entirely online. Students who do not have stable access to a computer and the internet should get in touch to talk about alternate assignments. Due on D2L April 8
- Final research paper (3500-4000 words) 25 %
  - The final paper is due on D2L Wednesday April 22.
- Participation 10%
  - You are expected to take part regularly in-class discussions. Good participation requires not only contributing but also interacting respectfully with others through attentive listening and responsiveness to others, as well as giving others space to contribute. After March 16<sup>th</sup> students may also receive participation credit for participation in discussions on D2L.

## Policy on late assignments

Given the current situation all efforts will be made to accommodate students concerns with deadlines. Students are encouraged to get in touch with me if they encounter any difficulties.

## Letter grade conversion scale

<b>A+</b>	<b>98-100 %</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>85-89.9</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>70-74.9</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>55-59.9</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>94-97.9</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>80-84.9</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>65-69.9</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>50-54.9</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90-93.99</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>75-79.9</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>60-64.9</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>0-49.9</b>

Writing will be a factor in the grading of submitted work.

There will be no registrar scheduled exam for this course

## **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](http://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](http://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. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. 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. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html)

### **Student Support and Resources**

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at [ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines](http://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](http://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](http://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 (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit [ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://ucalgary.ca/ssc).

## Online Resources and Electronic Devices

Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit [ucalgary.service-now.com/it](http://ucalgary.service-now.com/it) for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. Devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

## 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/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf](http://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](http://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.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act ([laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).