



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 565.4 Lec 60 – Topics in Philosophy of Science:  
“Fundamentality in Physics and Metaphysics”**

**Summer Term 2013**

**Course Outline**

**Seminars: Monday and Wednesday 10am-12:45pm in SS 1253**

**Instructor:** Kerry McKenzie (Sponsor: Marc Ereshefsky)  
**Office:** SS 1214  
**Phone:** 403-220-3163  
**Email:** [kerry.mckenzie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:kerry.mckenzie@ucalgary.ca)  
**Office Hours:** 4-5pm Monday and Wednesday (or by appointment)

***Course Description***

This course focuses on some central questions in the metaphysics of fundamentality. In particular, we will consider the following three themes. (1) In virtue of what is something more fundamental than something else? (2) What, if anything, is fundamental in this world? (3) How do the scientific and armchair approaches to these questions interact?

***Required Texts***

There is no required text for this course. Rather, I will be distributing (in class and / or on Blackboard) journal articles and book excerpts, as well as detailed handouts giving background where appropriate.

***Evaluation and Grading***

You will be required to fulfill three tasks to pass the course. There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.

**Presentation of Readings.** You will introduce the set reading for the class on two or perhaps three occasions (depending on numbers). Your aim is to present material that will stimulate class discussion around a central issue. Depending on the reading, that may or may not involve giving a synopsis of the article, but you should do so where appropriate.

**Critical Summaries.** You will be required to produce critical summaries of some central issues in each of the following areas: (1) The definition of the levels hierarchy; (2) The existence of a fundamental level; (3) Structures vs Objects as the fundamental category; (4) The interplay between science and armchair metaphysics in the fundamentality debate. These should be between 750 and 1,250 words in length. Provide references where appropriate.

**Paper proposal.** The paper proposal will consist of two parts. The first part will explain and

motivate the focus of your research by answering these questions. (1) What is the general topic area? (2) What are the main views on the topic? (3) What will your focus in that area be? The second part of your proposal will give a section-by-section outline of what you propose to write. Devote a paragraph to each section. This proposal will be discussed in detail with me and will serve as your research plan. The proposal should be no more than 1,250 words (approx. 5 pages double-space). Also attach a bibliography. It is perfectly acceptable to use no references other than those provided in class, but you are in no way limited to these. I have some suggested titles for your essay, but you are welcome to write on a topic of your choice **provided** it is cleared with me in advance.

**Paper.** Your paper should be between 3,000 and 4,000 words. This includes footnotes but not bibliography.

### **Due Dates and Grading Values**

Critical Summaries	19 July, 26 July, 6 Aug, 13 Aug.	10 points each (40 total)
Paper Proposal	12 Aug	10 points
Paper	20 Aug	50 points

Late Papers

No late papers will be accepted without an appropriate excuse or contacting me in advance.

### **Final Grading Scale**

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

### **Style requirements**

All critical summaries must be submitted as hard copies (unless arranged with me in advance), 1.5 or double-spaced, with a full bibliography. Final papers must be emailed directly to me. Late papers will be subject to a 5 mark penalty and critical summaries a 1 point penalty, each per calendar day. Any work over the word limit will be returned and subject to a corresponding late penalty.

### **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 documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact the DRC Office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability

Resource Centre are not eligible for formal 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.

### **Blackboard Help**

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

### **Student Advising and Information Resources**

- **General Academic Concerns** – Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Program Planning** – For assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit it on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- **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, contact 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. See [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information. The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [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.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT</b> The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at <a href="http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca">www.phil.ucalgary.ca</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR SUMMER 2013:</b> Chris Framarin <a href="mailto:chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca">chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca</a> Lorraine Markotic <a href="mailto:lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca">lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca</a> Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) <a href="mailto:migotti@ucalgary.ca">migotti@ucalgary.ca</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (<a href="mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca">schnell@ucalgary.ca</a>)</p>
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