



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

Nicole Wyatt
Social Sciences 1256A
nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Thursdays 3:30-4:30

Philosophy 571

Advanced topics in Philosophy of Logic and
Philosophy of Language

Speech Acts and Pornography

Winter Term 2019
Tuesdays and Thursdays 14:00 - 15:15
@ Social Sciences 1253

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Feminist philosophers working in the analytic tradition have used the tools of speech act theory to interpret and argue for Catherine MacKinnon's claim that pornography silences and subordinates women. In this course we will consider the merits of this approach. We will focus particularly Nancy Bauer's recent critique of the suitability of both analytic philosophy and the traditional understanding of Austin's account of speech for this purpose. The course will be run as a seminar, with all students expected to come to each session prepared to discuss the readings for that day.

Students are advised that the topic of the course sometimes requires discussion of explicit material.

PREREQUISITES: Two previous courses in Philosophy, one of which must be either 279 or 377, and one of which must be a 400 or higher-level course.

Students seeking a prerequisite waiver should contact the instructor via email as soon as possible.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students in this class shall:

- understand the essentials of speech act theory;
- understand the concept of illocutionary silencing and its applications to the idea that pornography silences and subordinates women;
- understand various critiques of the usefulness of the concept of illocutionary silencing in understanding feminist critiques of pornography;
- examine the usefulness of these philosophical concepts for negotiating their day to day experiences;
- improve their skills in philosophical writing.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Austin, J. L. (1962). *How to do things with words* (2nd ed. / edited by J.O. Urmson and Marina Sbisa, The William James lectures; 1955). Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

The full text of the 1975 reprint is available online via the UCalgary Library.

Bauer, Nancy (2015). *How to Do Things With Pornography*. Harvard University Press.

Other readings to be linked via the D2L site for the course.

Course Assessment

My focus during the term will be on providing qualitative not quantitative assessment, something we'll discuss further during the first class and throughout the term. In particular, I will be meeting with each student to discuss both the midterm essay and the final essay draft, and will ask you in those meetings to reflect upon your own work and the process of writing.

That said, the university requires that you receive a final grade for the class and that a list of assignments and mechanism for calculating the final grade be provided on this outline. Your final grade in this class will be assessed as follows:

Participation 25%

Participation will be assessed based on three components: discussion questions submitted in person at the beginning of each class, in-class contributions, and a commonplace book maintained throughout the term and submitted to the instructor on the last day of classes.

Midterm Essay 25% Provisional Due Date: Tuesday February 26th

Final Essay Draft 30% Provisional Due Date: Tuesday April 2nd

Final Essay 20% Due: Friday April 26th

The grade for the final essay will be based on progress towards revision goals you set for yourself in our meeting to discuss the draft.

All work for this class will be submitted in hard copy. Further details on assignments will be provided in class as the term progresses.

In computing your final grade, your marks will be converted to grade points (A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0, with +/- adding/subtracting 0.3), and averaged according to the weights given above. The final mark is the letter grade corresponding to this average plus a margin of 0.1 (i.e., an average of 3.9 earns an A, an average of 3.6 an A-, etc.). That said, later virtue will be allowed to redeem earlier sin.

There will be NO Registrar scheduled final exam.

Late Policy

If you cannot submit an assignment on the deadline please contact the instructor ASAP, or in the case of an emergency, whenever your circumstances allow. In general assignments will only be accepted after the deadline with prior permission of the instructor (in cases of predictable obstacles to completion) or in the case of a medical or personal emergency.

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded 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. See the relevant section K.5 on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.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 correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

General Academic Concerns and Program Planning

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising> for detailed 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 Undergraduate Advisors. David Dick – Undergraduate Program Director (dgdick@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty – Honors Advisor (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca) or Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca).

Registration Overload/Prerequisite Waivers

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prerequisites for a course, email the Philosophy Department Undergraduate Program Administrator (UPA), Rebecca Lesser (rebecca.lesser@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

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 or teaching assistant.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging

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

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> . Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca , arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>