



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

## **PHIL 571**

### **Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Logic and Language: Conceptual Engineering**

Winter 2020

TuTh, 2-3:15

Online only as of March 16, 2020

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor Name:** David Liebesman

**Email:** David.liebesman@ucalgary.ca

**Office:** SS 1202

**Office Hours:** e-mail for phone/video chat appointment

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

One thing we can do with our words is ask what they mean. This is a popular activity among philosophers and linguists. Another thing we can do is ask what our words should mean. At least recently, this has been a somewhat less popular activity. More generally, we can ask what sorts of representational devices, including word and concepts, we should create and adopt in order suit various purposes. This is one understanding of conceptual engineering. We'll cover a variety of issues in philosophy of language pertaining to the possibility, understanding, and limits of conceptual engineering.

### **PREREQUISITE(S)**

*Two previous courses in Philosophy, one of which must be either [Philosophy 279](#) or [377](#), and one of which must be at the 400 level, or higher.*

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Knowledge of the key issues involving meaning endowment and change.
- Knowledge of the different models of conceptual engineering and their respective advantages and disadvantages.
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze contemporary articles in philosophy of language pertaining to conceptual engineering.
- Ability to develop and defend original positions.
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

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

Cappelen, Herman. 2018. *Fixing Language, An Essay on Conceptual Engineering*. Oxford University Press. Articles to be made available via D2L.

### **COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

#### **Assessment Components and Grading Schemes**

- Four short papers (approx. 500 words), due on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, and March. 19<sup>th</sup>, and submitted via D2L (5% of the grade each, 20% total).
- Two exams, in class on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> and take-home on Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> (25% of the grade each).

- One longer paper (approx. 2,500 words), final draft due on April 19<sup>th</sup> and submitted via D2L. Rough draft due on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and peer review due on April 9<sup>th</sup>. (1% for the rough draft, 1% for the peer review, and 28% for the final draft, for a total of 30% of the final grade).
- Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 letter grade per day, unless arrangements with the professor are made in advance of the due date.
- **\*\*Please screenshot the D2L submitted field or sent email when submitting work electronically in case of systems issues.**

### Letter Grade Conversion Table

A+	96 –100 %	C+	67-69.9 %
A	91-95.9 %	C	64-66.9 %
A-	86-90.9 %	C-	60-63.9 %
B+	80-85.9 %	D+	55-59.9 %
B	75-79.9 %	D	50-54.9 %
B-	70-74.9 %	F	0- 49.9 %

### Exams

- There is no final exam.
- No aids are allowed for the in-class exams.

### 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/access/accommodations/policy](http://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: [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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).