



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 597 Lec 01
Honours Seminar
Fall 2021

Fridays, 11:00-13:45, Online (link available on D2L)

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: David G. Dick

Email: dgdick@ucalgary.ca

Office: SS 1224

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Phone: 403-220-6434

COURSE INFORMATION

The course, in conjunction with your Honours Supervisor, will guide you through the development of an idea for your Honours Thesis, the preparation of a project description and bibliography, and the presentation of your project to the rest of the class.

PREREQUISITE(S)

Consent of the department.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will have learned

- about resources available for researching and writing extended academic and, especially, philosophical works
- how to negotiate the pitfalls of researching and writing extended philosophical works
- how to constructively receive feedback from peers during the writing progress
- how to brainstorm with peers about how to interpret texts relevant to their work
- how to brainstorm with peers about how to proceed with their arguments and ideas

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

Various philosophical articles and sample theses, available via public links or links through the University of Calgary library. Links are listed on D2L.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Course Assessment

| | | |
|--|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Reading Questions: | 20% | Due throughout term, details below. |
| First Project Description and Bibliography: | 10% | Due at 11:00 am on Oct 8 |
| Reading Presentation: | 10% | In class Oct 15-29 |
| Second Project Description and Bibliography: | 20% | Due at 11:00 am on Dec 10 |
| Project Presentation: | 20% | In class Nov 19-Dec 3 |
| Thesis Progress: | 20% | Assessed after Dec 3 |

This course has no Registrar administered final exam, only a final paper.

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>

Reading Questions are to be submitted via the Dropbox feature of the D2L site for this class by 12:00 noon the day before the readings are scheduled to be discussed. So for each Friday class, the matching Reading Question is due by 12:00 noon on the Thursday of that week.

Project Descriptions are accepted late, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period overdue. So, an A- paper submitted in the first 24 hours after it was due will receive a B-, if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-, and so on.

Reading Questions:

Whenever we have a reading assigned to discuss in class, you are eligible to submit a Reading Question. The question you write should convince me that you've read the reading, at least well enough to be confused by it. I'm not kidding: confusion is a philosophical heuristic, it either helps you identify a place where you don't understand, or where the argument doesn't make sense. Either one of these counts as philosophical progress. These questions and their explanations need not be any longer than about half a page. (I'll post an example of what I mean to D2L.)

There will be at least eight opportunities to submit a Reading Question during the term, but your grade will be based just on the best five. Therefore, you can skip some days if you like, or use extra opportunities to replace a lower-graded question with a higher one.

Reading Questions must be submitted via the Dropbox feature of the D2L site for this class, by 12:00 noon the day before the readings are to be discussed.

Project Descriptions and Bibliographies:

First Project Description and Bibliography due October 8 at 11:00 am in Dropbox on D2L.

Second Project Description and Bibliography due December at 11:00 am in Dropbox on D2L.

Guidelines with further details will be available on D2L.

Presentations:

Reading Presentations will take place in class between October 15 and October 29, where students will present on one of the readings relevant to their thesis research.

Project Presentations will take place in class between November 19 and December 3, where students will present on their thesis projects.

Thesis Progress:

Will be determined in consultation with the student's Honours Advisor after December 3.

Letter Grade Conversion Table

All evaluated material will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the standard 4.0 scale:

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| 4.3 – A+ | 3.3 – B+ | 2.3 – C+ | 1.3 – D+ | 0.0 – F |
| 4.0 – A | 3.0 – B | 2.0 – C | 1.0 – D | |
| 3.7 – A– | 2.7 – B– | 1.7 – C– | | |

The arithmetic that will calculate your final grade will follow this formula:

$((\text{Reading Questions}).20 + (\text{First Project Description}).10 + (\text{Reading Presentation}).10 + (\text{Second Project Description}).20 + (\text{Project Presentation}).20 + (\text{Thesis Progress}).20) = \text{Final Grade}$

Final grades are cumulative, so a passing grade in the class does not require a passing grade on any particular component of the course.

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.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. 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.

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services

- 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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising> for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy. Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director ifantl@ucalgary.ca) or David Dick (Honours Advisor dgdick@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Courtenay Canivet (Undergraduate Program Administrator 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. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success.

Required Technology

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L

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

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/>. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the [University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy](#).

Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

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.

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>. 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 (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).