



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

**PHIL 609.51 Lec 1**  
**Topics in the History of Philosophy**  
**American Pragmatism and Philosophy of Science**  
**Winter Term 2019**

**Course Outline**

**Classes: Wednesdays, 5:00 – 7:45 pm, SS1253**

**Instructor: Mark Migotti**

Office: SS 1234

Office Phone: (403) 220-5534

Email: [migotti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:migotti@ucalgary.ca), please use email and put “Phil 609” in subject heading for all course correspondence

Office Hours: To be announced

**Instructor: C. Kenneth Waters**

Office: SS 1212

Office Phone: none, please use email and put “Phil 609” in subject heading for all course correspondence

Email: [ckwaters@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ckwaters@ucalgary.ca), please use email and put “Phil 609” in subject heading for all course correspondence

Office Hours: To be announced

**Course Description**

The topic of this graduate seminar is American Pragmatism and Philosophy of Science. Recently, a number of philosophers of science have started drawing upon the tradition of American Pragmatism, some, such as Philip Kitcher quite extensively, others such as Bas van Fraassen more narrowly. In this course, we will explore the work of the classical American Pragmatists-- Peirce, James, and Dewey—with the aim of shedding light on issues central to contemporary philosophy of science. We will motivate and orient our historical investigations with an illustration of contemporary work in philosophy of science, and then turn to our main focus: a close reading of selected texts of Peirce, James, and Dewey from this perspective.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- Deep knowledge of one central area of philosophical inquiry;
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources;
- Ability to identify and articulate questions for discussion and investigation;
- Ability to engage in constructive philosophical discussion of peers’ ideas;
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- Ability to help peers develop their positions and arguments;
- Ability to use feedback from others to improve one’s own positions and arguments;
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful oral and written argumentation.

## Required/Recommended Texts (including electronic resources)

All required readings will be available for free in electronic form.

## Course Work

**Weekly Reading and Rereading:** Each week, students are required to reread the reading selection discussed in the previous class meeting and read a new reading selection that will be discussed in the upcoming class.

**Weekly Informal Essays (300 – 400 words):** Students are required to write a brief informal essay addressing a question or theme raised during class each week. The question or theme to be addressed will be emailed to students' university (@ucalgary.ca) accounts by Thursday evening every week. Essays are due by email (to both instructors) by the following Monday at noon. Essays will be posted for class members to read and will be discussed during the first part of the upcoming class.

**Weekly Discussion Questions (200 – 300 words):** Students are required to write and submit a question at the beginning of each class each week (including the first class). Specific instructions will be distributed to students' university (@ucalgary.ca) accounts.

**Research Talk Reports (200 – 300 words):** Students are required to attend and report on two research talks in the Department of Philosophy's speaker series, which are scheduled on Friday afternoons from 3 – 5 pm.

Research talk reports should be organized into three labeled parts: a. description of the research presentation; b. description of the discussion during the question and answer period after the main presentation; and c. your reaction to the research presentation and discussion: how it relates to this course or to your philosophical interests, or what you learned from it. Reports must be submitted in physical form to the 609 dropbox (in the Philosophy Department) within a week of the talk.

**Term Papers:** Students are required to write and submit a term paper. Students will meet with the instructors as they are identifying topics and relevant sources for their papers. These papers must be research papers that develop new ideas, interpretations, and/or arguments.

## Course Assessment

**Important: there will be a kick-off event Monday evening, January 14, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm.** It will be held in our regular meeting room (SS1253) and a gluten free vegan dinner will be served. Attendance is highly recommended, but not required.

**Important: there is a required reading and written preparation assignment due at the beginning of the first regular class on January 16.** The reading assignment for the first class is:

- James, William 1898, "Philosophical Conceptions and Practical Results" originally published in *University Chronicle*, Volume 1, No. 4, pages. 287 – 310. We will read the original version which is available via archive.org.
- To access copy with pagination we will refer to in class, please download pdf from <https://archive.org/search.php?query=philosophical%20conceptions%20and%20practical%20results>

Please see sections in this outline “**Style and Citation Requirements**” for instructions concerning all written assignments.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due date</b>	<b>Points</b>
13 Discussion questions	Beginning of each class	required, but not graded
13 Informal essays	Beginning of each class	required, but not graded
Research talk report 1	Feb 17 This is a final due date, but students are encouraged to submit the report earlier.	required, but not graded
Research talk report 2	April 8 This is a final due date, but students are encouraged to submit the report earlier.	required, but not graded
Term paper	To be announced	100 points

No late assignments will be accepted without an appropriate excuse.

All of the above assignments with the following exceptions must be completed (and accepted) to pass the course: students can miss up to two discussion questions and two informal essays and still pass the course.

No registrar scheduled final will be given.

Final grades will be determined as follows

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

### **Style and Citation Requirements**

All written work for this course should adhere to the formatting requirements of the journal *Philosophy of Science* with three exceptions:

1. Please staple an afterpage with your name on everything you submit in physical form (e.g. discussion questions, research talk reports, and papers). Your name should not appear anywhere else on the assignment (so we can follow the best practice of masked grading when possible). Afterpage forms will be provided.
2. Include page numbers at the bottom of each page of any multipage submission as indicated in the journal’s guidelines except for the afterpage, which does not need to be numbered.
3. You do not need to include a title or abstract for any assignment other than the term paper.

The formatting requirements of *Philosophy of Science* can be found under “Author Guidelines” at <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/journals/phos/instruct>

## **Email**

Students will be sent essential class announcements and materials through university email accounts (@ucalgary.ca). So please check that account.

All email communication with instructors concerning this course must be conducted via your @ucalgary.ca account.

## **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](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 <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](mailto: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](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehanty – Honors Advisor ([mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mdelehan@ucalgary.ca)) or Allen Habib ([anh Habib@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anh Habib@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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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/>