



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

### PHIL 661-01

## Fundamentals of Contemporary Analytic Epistemology

Winter Term 2023

TR 2-3:15, SS 1253

### COURSE OUTLINE

**Instructor:** Jeremy Fantl

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**Office:** SS 1238

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30

**Office Phone:** 403-220-5022

### COURSE INFORMATION

Contemporary epistemology has taken an “applied” turn, engaging with literature surrounding social media, propaganda, artificial intelligence, public engagement, and power dynamics. But all of these discussions reference developments at the core of abstract, theoretical epistemology. This course will trace the questions and distinctions that have animated foundational epistemological theorizing over the past 75 years, to provide a base of knowledge sufficient for fully grappling with the important real-world issues mainstream epistemology has started to be concerned with.

### PREREQUISITES

None.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Outline the fundamentals of an array of issues in epistemology
- Write a persuasive argumentative paper
- Engage in constructive dialogue with peers.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Selected survey articles from *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, and *Philosophy Compass*.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

- 6 **précis** (worth 25%): thought pieces inspired by and on the subject of the assigned reading of 1 (single-spaced) page max. Précis may be handed in only at the beginning of the class devoted to the relevant reading and you may hand in no more than one per class. Missing précis receive a zero. If it's clear you spent two minutes on it, the précis gets a C. Otherwise, it gets an A.
- A 20 minute, completely stress free, oral **midterm exam** (worth 25%), held in my office during the week of February 27<sup>th</sup>, at a mutually agreed upon time.
- A 20 minute, completely stress free, oral **final exam** (worth 25%), held in my office during the week of April 11<sup>th</sup>, at a mutually agreed upon time.
- A **final paper** (worth 25%) of 10-20 pages, due Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

### POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

You get a no-questions-asked extension on one take-home assignment, if you clear it with me at least a day in advance of the due date. ***Unexcused late assignments lose the equivalent of 1/3 full letter grade for each day late, to a maximum of the equivalent of 4 full letter grades. Missing assignments receive a zero.*** Midterm exams are not accepted more than one week late.

## GRADE SCHEME

Letter Grades translate to numerical values according to the following scheme. Final Grades are computed by rounding to the nearest recognized letter grade.

A+: 98.33	B+: 88.33	C+: 78.33	D+: 68.33	F: 55
A+/A: 96.67	B+/B: 86.67	C+/C: 76.67	D+/D: 66.67	
A: 95	B: 85	C: 75	D: 65	
A/A-: 93.33	B/B-: 83.33	C/C-: 73.33	D/D-: 63.33	
A-: 91.67	B-: 81.67	C-: 71.67	D-: 61.67	
A-/B+: 90	B-/C+: 80	C-/D+: 70		

## SYLLABUS

Readings prefaced by "SEP" are found in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Readings prefaced by "PC" are to be found in *Philosophy Compass*

Readings prefaced by "IEP" are to be found in the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

1/10, Tues: Intro	
1/12, Thurs: Analysis of Knowledge	SEP: The Analysis of Knowledge
1/17, Tues: Value	SEP: The Value of Knowledge
1/19, Thurs: Skepticism	SEP: Skepticism
1/24, Tues: Fallibilism	PC: Fallibilism
1/26, Thurs: Foundationalism	SEP: Foundationalist Theories of Epistemic Justification
1/31, Tues: Coherentism	SEP: Coherentist Theories of Epistemic Justification
2/2, Thurs: Virtue Epistemology	SEP: Virtue Epistemology
2/7, Tues: Internalism	SEP: Internalist vs. Externalist Conceptions of Epistemic Justification
2/9, Thurs: Externalism	IEP: Internalism and Externalism in Epistemology
2/14, Tues: Contextualism	SEP: Epistemic Contextualism
2/16, Thurs: Knowledge Norms and Pragmatic Encroachment	IEP: Knowledge Norms
2/20-2/24: Term Break	NO CLASSES
2/28, Tues: <i>A Priori</i> Intuition	SEP: Intuition
3/2, Thurs: Introspection	SEP: Introspection
3/7, Tues: Perception	SEP: The Problem of Perception
3/9, Thurs: Memory	SEP: Epistemological Problems of Memory
3/14, Tues: Social Epistemology	SEP: Social Epistemology
3/16, Thurs: Testimony	SEP: Epistemological Problems of Testimony
3/21, Tues: Disagreement	SEP: Disagreement
3/23, Thurs: The Ethics of Belief	SEP: The Ethics of Belief
3/28, Tues: Bayesian Epistemology	SEP: Bayesian Epistemology
3/30, Thurs: Formal Epistemology, Accuracy, and Probabilism	SEP: Epistemic Utility Arguments for Probabilism
4/4, Tues: TBA	TBA
4/6, Thurs: TBA	TBA
4/11, Tues: TBA	TBA
4/28, Tues:	Final Paper due

## **IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

The following information is MANDATORY. You may choose to include additional policies, to be reviewed by the Department Head during the approval process.

### **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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy). Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)) or Megan Delehanty (Honours Advisor [mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mdelehan@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](https://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](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](http://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](http://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>).