



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 671

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

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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 will be made available via D2L.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Assessment Components and Grading Schemes

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

- One longer paper (approx. 4,000 words), final draft due on April 19th and submitted via D2L. Rough draft due on April 2nd and peer review due on April 9th. (1% for the rough draft, 1% for the peer review, and 23% for the final draft, for a total of 25% of the final grade).
- One presentation on the longer paper (a total of approximately 30 minutes, including time for questions). The presentations will be April 7th, 9th, and 14th. (15% of the final grade.) For those who do not wish to present, a written alternative can be negotiated with the instructor.
- ****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.

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. 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

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at 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 for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (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 (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.

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 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.

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

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. 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) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).