



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 399.2 Lec 01 – Topics in Philosophy “Philosophy of Money”

Winter Term 2015

Course Outline

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15 in SA 147

Instructor: David G. Dick

Office: SS 1224

Phone: 403-220-6434

Email: dgdick@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30pm-3:30pm, and by appointment

Course Description

In caricature, philosophers are the wrong people entirely to ask about money, since they either have disdain for it, or simply aren't very good at making it. But at least since Aristotle, philosophers have had surprising things to say about money, and thinking about money is an excellent way to think through questions about the nature of value, reality, and morality. This course will focus on three philosophical issues provoked by money: money and the nature of value, distributive justice and the ethics of wealth, and the relationship between money and happiness.

Required Texts

Why Some Things Should Not Be For Sale

Satz, Debra (Oxford University Press, 2012)

ISBN 13: 9780199892617

(Paperback recommended)

Philosophy 399 Coursepack, available at the University Bookstore

Additional materials will be indicated via the D2L site for this class.

Available at: d2l.ucalgary.ca

Evaluation

Weekly Questions:	15%	
First Philosophical Paper:	30%	Due: Thursday, March 5th
Research Paper:	20%	No later than Tuesday, April 14th
Final Philosophical Paper:	35%	Due: Tuesday, April 14th

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:

$$(W. Questions).15 + (1st Phil Paper).30 + (Research Paper).20 + (2nd Paper).35 = \text{Final Grade}$$

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>

Weekly questions are to be submitted in class in hard copy and will not be accepted otherwise.

Late papers are accepted, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period late. So, an A-paper submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-. Once a paper is late, it should be submitted via email (to me at dgdick@ucalgary.ca) as soon as it is ready.

The final grade will be based on the credit accumulated from the various assignments, so it is mathematically possible to pass the course without turning in any particular assignment. But this strategy is not recommended.

Weekly Questions:

Each week, I'd like you to submit a question based on the reading for the day that you submit the question. The question you write should convince me that you've read the day's 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.)

Here's how this works: For each week of the term, pick one day that week and write a question based on the reading assigned for that day. Then, submit a hard copy version of this question at the beginning of class where that reading will be discussed.

Weekly questions are only accepted when submitted in person at the beginning of each class, and only in hard copy. Barring extraordinary and documented serious emergencies, missed weekly questions cannot be made up.

There are 13 weeks in the semester (including this first one) but you only owe me 12 weekly questions for the term. It's entirely up to you which weeks you'd like to pass on. Extra weekly questions beyond this 12 will be read, but will not count for any extra credit.

Weekly questions can be hand written, but keeping an electronic file with your weekly questions can be helpful both for studying and for keeping track of how many you've turned in.

Philosophical Papers:

Will be in the form of philosophical essays written in response to topics I will distribute in advance of the days the papers are due.

Further instructions will be included when those topics are distributed.

Research Paper:

Beyond the two philosophical papers you will write for this class, you owe me one shorter research paper. To my knowledge, this is the second Philosophy of Money course ever and so has no canonical set of texts or sources. I have compiled an archive, but there is no reason to think it is exhaustive, so I am asking you in your research paper to bring me one new source relating to the philosophy of money. This helps develop a canon for this topic, and it also helps you to practice looking at the world with a philosophical eye.

Early in the class, I will distribute a list of all the sources I know about so far, and it will be your task in this assignment to alert me to something that is philosophically interesting about money that is not on this list. In a paper that is approximately 1000 words you should provide me with three things: 1) a reference to this source so that I can locate it, 2) a description of the source, and 3) (which is most important) a discussion of why this source is philosophically interesting.

This paper can be submitted at any point in the semester, but no later than the last day of class, Tuesday, April 14th. It is in your interest to submit this paper well before the end of term. No major assignment for this class is due in February, so that might be an ideal time to turn in your research paper.

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. 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

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email access@ucalgary.ca. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's learning management system which has now replaced BlackBoard. Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/> for more 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 current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

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.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds. For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR WINTER 2015:

Chris Framarin (Undergrad Director) chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

Reid Buchanan buchanar@ucalgary.ca

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) migotti@ucalgary.ca

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)