



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 201 L02
“Mind, Matter, and God”
Winter Term 2016

Course Outline

Lectures: M/W/F 11-11:50
Room: AD 142

Instructor: Jeremy Fantl
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Office Hours: M, 12-1:30

Teaching Assistant: Brayden Mills-Smith
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Course Description

This course is an introduction to some important issues in the philosophical domains of epistemology, metaphysics, and the philosophy of religion. In particular, we will examine philosophical discussions about the nature and scope of human knowledge, how the mental relates to the physical, the possibility of free will, and whether it is possible to reconcile the existence of an all-good, all-powerful God with the apparent existence of evil and suffering.

Required Texts

Rene Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, available from the University Bookstore
Coursepack, available from the University Bookstore.

Evaluation

- Two ***papers***, the first 3-5 pages long (worth 20%), due February 22nd, the second 4-6 pages long (worth 25%), due the last day of class (April 13th).
- A take-home ***midterm exam*** (worth 20%), due February 12th.
- A ***Registrar-scheduled final exam*** (worth 25%).
- ***Tutorial*** performance (worth 10%).

Letter Grade Conversion Table

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		

Final Grades are computed by rounding to the nearest recognized letter grade.

Policy on Late Assignments

You get a no-questions-asked extension on one and only one take-home assignment, as long as you clear it with me at least a day in advance of the due date. ***All unexcused late assignments lose the equivalent of 1/3 full letter grade for each day the assignment is late, to a maximum of the equivalent of 4 full letter grades. Missing assignments receive a zero.***

Syllabus

All readings are in the coursepack, except for the selections from Descartes' *Meditations*.

Part I: Mind and Matter**Part Ia: Knowledge**

1/11, Mon: Intro	Intro
1/13, Wed: What is Knowledge?	Sri Harṣa, <i>Khaṇḍanakhaṇḍakhāḍya</i> , selection
1/15, Fri: The Value of Knowledge	Plato, <i>Meno</i> , selection
1/18, Mon:	BUFFER DAY
1/20, Wed: External World Skepticism	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditation I</i>
1/22, Fri: The Cogito and Clear and Distinct Perception	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditations II and III</i> , selections
1/25, Mon:	BUFFER DAY
1/27, Wed: What is an Expository Essay	Essay # 1 Assigned

Part Ib: The Mind/Body Problem

1/29, Fri: Dualism About the Self	Rene Descartes, <i>Meditation II</i> , selection
2/1, Mon: Mental Causation	Princess Elisabeth, Correspondence with Descartes, selections
2/3, Wed:	BUFFER DAY
2/5, Fri: Physicalism About the Mind	J. J. C. Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes"
2/8, Mon: A More Contemporary Cartesian Argument for Dualism	Brie Gertler, "A Defense of Dualism"
2/10, Wed:	BUFFER DAY

Part Ic: Freedom of the Will

2/12, Fri: A Case Study	Law and Order, "Pro Se" Take-home Midterm Exam Due
2/14-2/21 Winter Break	NO CLASSES
2/22, Mon: The Insanity Defense	McNaghten Rules ALI Essay #1 Due
2/24, Wed: Free Will and the Law	Sarah Lucas, "Free Will and the Anders Breivik Trial" Selection from <i>Morissette v. United States</i>
2/26, Fri:	BUFFER DAY

2/29, Mon: The Problem of Free Will	Susan Stebbing, <i>Philosophy and the Physicists</i> , selection
3/2, Wed: Compatibilism	A. J. Ayer, "Freedom and Necessity"
3/4, Fri:	BUFFER DAY
3/7, Mon: Libertarianism	Roderick Chisholm, "Human Freedom and the Self"
3/9, Wed: Libertarianism without Agent Causation	Laura Ekstrom, "Indeterminist Free Action"
3/11, Fri:	BUFFER DAY

Part II: God

3/14, Mon: The Problem of Evil	Three Evil Readings: CNN selection; Reporter Forum selection; Human Rights Watch selection
3/16, Wed: The Soul-Making Theodicy	Hick, "Soul Making Theodicy"
3/18, Fri:	BUFFER DAY
3/21, Mon:	Essay #2, assigned
3/23, Wed: The Intractability of the Problem of Evil	Andrea Weisberger, <i>Suffering Belief</i> , selections
3/25, Fri:	GOOD FRIDAY
3/28, Mon:	BUFFER DAY
3/30, Wed: The Scapegoat	LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" Feodor Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , selection
4/1, Fri: The Misuse of the Problem of Evil	Grace Jantzen, "Whose Problem is the 'Problem of Evil'" (from <i>Becoming Divine</i>)
4/4, Mon:	
4/6, Wed: The Judeo-Christian Bible's Response to the Problem of Evil	<i>The Book of Job</i>
4/8, Fri: What Can Evil Teach Us?	Eleonore Stump, "The Mirror of Evil"
4/11, Mon:	
4/13, Wed:	Wrap-up and Exam Review Essay #2 Due

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, 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

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- 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. 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/undergraduate> 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 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 or teaching assistant.

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 2016:

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Chris Framarin chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

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