



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 201 Lec 01 – “Mind, Matter and God”

Winter Term 2017

### Course Outline

**Lectures:** MWF 10-10.50 in Science A 106

**Instructor:** Noa Latham

**Office:** SS 1250

**Phone:** 403-220-5528 (no messages)

**Email:** [latham@ucalgary.ca](mailto:latham@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** W 1.30-2.30, F 2-3 and by appt.

**TA:** Bokai Yao

**Office:** SS 1242

**Phone:** 403-220-6464

**Email:** [bokai.yao@ucalgary.ca](mailto:bokai.yao@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** T 2-3pm, and by appt.

### ***Course Description***

We will begin by discussing some basic concepts and issues concerning how we acquire our beliefs and how they may be mistaken or unreasonable. Then we turn to the difference between scientific and religious thought, and the relation between religion and morality. Next we examine whether we can deceive ourselves, and whether we can be massively deceived by our senses. In the second part of the course we will examine how the mind and body are related, the emotions, and free will.

### ***Course Objectives***

Throughout the course you will be attempting to come to your own conclusions regarding the issues discussed by assessing arguments for and against the views presented in the readings. You will be developing your ability to comprehend, interpret, and analyse complex sources, as well as to recognise and construct convincing arguments both in writing and orally.

### ***Required Reading***

A course package of readings from classical and contemporary sources is available at the University Bookstore.

### ***Course Evaluation***

- A take-home midterm exam available noon Jan 30 and due Feb 3 = 20%
- First paper (1200-1500 words, 4-5 pages) due Mar 2 = 25%
- Second paper (1200-1500 words, 4-5 pages) due Apr 13 = 25%
- A Registrar-scheduled exam = 30%

Participation in class discussion in lectures and tutorials can increase your grade by as much as one grade step (e.g. from B- to B). Cumulative and final grades will be computed by D2L using the following scale:

A+	98-100	B+	86-89	C+	74-77	D+	62-65
A	94-97	B	82-85	C	70-73	D	58-61
A-	90-93	B-	78-81	C-	66-69	F	0-57

**You are not required to complete all assignments to pass the course, but the grade for a missing assignment is 0.**

**All assignments are due at 4pm in the drop box outside my office. Late papers will be marked down by one grade step for each day of lateness. (The time between Fri and Mon counts as one day.) If you are anticipating any difficulty in turning your assignment in on time you must discuss the problem with me before the due date.**

### ***Electronic Devices***

Those wishing to use a computer to take notes are requested to sit towards the back of the class. Cell phones should be switched off for the duration of the class.

### ***Course Website***

I shall be using D2L to post short notes, grades, assignments, to confirm what we are reading for the next lecture, and to provide some questions on those readings.

### ***Tentative Schedule***

Jan 9	Introduction
	<u>Epistemology</u>
Jan 11	Audi Introduction to <i>Belief, Justification, and Knowledge</i>
Jan 13, 16	Audi "Scientific Knowledge" excerpt from <i>Epistemology</i>
Jan 18	James "Mysticism" excerpt
Jan 20	Mackie "The Varieties of Religious experience"
Jan 23, 25	Plato <i>Euthyphro</i>
Jan 27, 30	Law "Can we have Morality without God and Religion?"
Feb 2, 4	Mele "Real Self-deception"
Feb 7	Sartre "Bad Faith" excerpt
Feb 9, 11	Pascal "The Wager"
Feb 14, 16	Descartes <i>Meditation 1</i>
Feb 18	Russell "The Existence of Matter"
Feb 20, 22, 24	Reading Week (no classes)
Feb 27, Mar 1	Descartes <i>Meditation 2</i>
	<u>Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind</u>
Mar 3	Descartes <i>Discourse</i> excerpt
Mar 6, 8	Smith and Jones "Difficulties for the Dualist"
Mar 10, 13, 15	Searle "Minds, Brains and Programs"
Mar 17, 20	Chalmers "The Puzzle of Conscious Experience"
Mar 22, 24	Aristotle <i>Rhetoric</i> excerpt
Mar 27, 29	Solomon "Emotions and Choice"
Mar 31, Apr 3	Latham "The Relevance of Libertarian Freedom"
Apr 5, 7	Strawson "Freedom and Resentment"
Apr 10, 12	Frankfurt "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility"

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

### **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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

### **D2L Help**

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> 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 S5102, 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/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 Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl ([jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)), Reid Buchanan ([buchanar@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanar@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehanty ([mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mdelehan@ucalgary.ca)).

### **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 Department Manager, Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca)). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

### **Writing**

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that 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 Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>