



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 315 Lec 01 – Philosophy in Literature

Fall Term 2016

Course Outline

Lectures: (TR 14:00 - 15:15; ST 130)

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Four notes about Email:

- (1) Students wishing to get in touch with me via email should ensure that “PHIL 315” or some other clearly identifying term occurs in the subject line. Otherwise there is a strong possibility that your message will be deleted unread as spam.
- (2) Should you change your email address during the term, please update this information online at your Student Centre as soon as possible. If you do not, and an email message is sent to the class, it will fail to reach you.
- (3) **If you email me to make an appointment please indicate clearly the times when you are available.**
- (4) Please make sure your first and last name is clearly included in the body of any email message.

Office Hours: 13:00-15:00 on the following dates: September 16, 23, 28, October 7, 14, 21, 26, November 4, 9, 18, 23, December 2, 7, **or by appointment**. The rationale for this somewhat strange group of dates will be explained in class, but note that the final disjunct **"or by appointment"** means what it says. You are not limited to those dates and times, but you may need to make an appointment. If you email me to ask for an appointment, please be sure to tell me the times you are available.

Course Description: In the first part of the course we shall be discussing ethical issues arising from our texts; in the second we shall treat the topic of persons and personal identity in literature. In both cases the emphasis will be on the *philosophical* relevance of the material studied.

At some point toward the end of term 15-20 minutes at the beginning of class will be used for the student surveys.

Required Texts

Thomas Hardy, *Jude the Obscure*

Thomas Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*

Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*

Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

Daniel Keyes, *Flowers for Algernon*

Simon Blackburn, *Ethics: A Very Short Introduction*

Evaluation

- Marks will be based on two tests and eight assignments.
- Tests: The first test is an in-class test worth 42% of the final mark. Students may bring to the in-class test a single sheet of standard sized paper (approx. 21.5 x 28 cm). You may put on the paper (both sides) anything you like. No other notes or books may be consulted. On your test please write as legibly as time allows; if possible use a pen not a pencil. After the first test students may submit an optional term paper (deadline, firm: two weeks after return in class of the test; maximum length 3,000 words). For the optional term paper you may choose any of the questions from the in class test, or another topic relevant to the work covered to date chosen in consultation with JJM. For the optional term paper, if chosen, emailed submissions are strongly preferred. Please use Microsoft word and attach your paper to an ordinary email; if MS Word is not available to you, please use a pdf format. Make sure your last name is part of the attachment's name. The term paper mark will, if higher, replace the mark of the corresponding test for the purpose of calculating the final mark, unless the test mark was an F, in which case that mark will stand.
- The second test is a take home test worth 50% of the final mark. For each test you will be given a wide choice of questions. The first test will be on October 20. The second test will be posted November 24, and will be due by 23:59 December 9. Electronic submissions are preferred for this second test—simply email your test as an email attachment, preferably as a Microsoft word document. If MS Word is unavailable please use a pdf format. Please ensure that your name is on your test and in the body of the accompanying email (preferred subject line: 315 yourname T2). Total length should have a **maximum** of (approximately) 3,000 words. There will be no Registrar-scheduled final examination.
- Assignments: The eight assignments are designed to ensure that you are keeping up with the reading, and are intended to test awareness of our texts. Each assignment will require a short, one paragraph (two to four sentences), answer to a straightforward question about a text with which we are currently working or are about to work. Each assignment will be on a pass fail basis. A pass on a given assignment will be worth 1% of the final mark. If your first attempt is a fail, you may have **one** second attempt, due two days after email notification of the fail mark. No third attempts. Electronic submissions, as part of (simplest and preferred), or as an attachment to, an ordinary email, are preferred to hard copy submission. If you are attaching the assignment please ensure that your name is on your assignment title, not merely on the email. Preferred subject line format for your emailed assignment to ensure that your assignment is not deleted as spam: 315 **An yourname**, (where the 'n' in 'An' gives the assignment number). **Passing a minimum of six of these assignments is required for a pass in the course as a whole.** The assignments, posted one week before the due date, are due by 11.59 p.m. of the due dates. These are: A1, September 29; A2, October 6; A3, October 13; A4, October 27; A5, November 3; A6, November 17; A7, November 24; A8, December 1. Assignment topics and suggested readings will be posted on D2L.
- We are asked by the University to "Indicate when writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of the student's work. (See [E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum](#) statement.)" Writing and the grading thereof is of course a factor in the evaluation of your work. Your writing should be clear, coherent, and to the point. Your arguments should be plainly set out. You may find it helpful to consult the notes on writing a philosophy paper on the Philosophy Department's website. These notes also mention the relation between writing and philosophical evaluation.

Grading Method

Your in class and take home tests, and your optional term papers will be graded on the standard university scale which ranges from A+ to F. Your mark may sometimes have a slash (/) in it, thus: B/B+. In such cases the first mark is the official mark, the second shows which end of the mark you are closer to. An A-/B+ is an A- at the lower end; an A-/A is an A- at the upper end. Letter grade marks will be averaged by using GPA numerical equivalents. The assignment marks, worth 8% of the final mark, will be assigned a cumulative letter grade based on the following table: 8: A+, 7: A, 6: A-, 5: F. Notice that an F as the total assignment grade will produce an F in the course.

Spelling and grammar

More than five grammatical or spelling mistakes on any one page of an optional term paper or take home test will lead to the paper or test being returned for corrections before a mark is assigned. Corrections are due within two days of the return. Two examples of the same mistake count as two mistakes. Standard U. S. spellings (e.g., 'neighbor' for 'neighbour', 'center' for 'centre', 'theater' for 'theatre', etc.) are acceptable. Common mistakes in philosophy papers include: (1) misspellings of 'existence', 'conceive', 'argument', and 'separate'; (2) the misuse of 'i.e.' for 'e.g.'; (3) the misuse of 'phenomena' and 'criteria' as singulars. They are plurals. The singulars are 'phenomenon' and 'criterion.' Finally there is (4) the increasingly common use of 'it's' as a possessive. Perhaps this almost ubiquitous error will become standard, but it has not done so yet, and just as we do not speak of "he's book," or "she's pen" so we should not refer to "it's colour." Like "he's" or "she's," "it's" is a contraction, not a possessive. Of course you should avoid sexist language. In particular, remember that 'man' and 'he' are not gender neutral, and that 'girl' is not an appropriate term for adult women. (No doubt these remarks will have little practical relevance for *this* class; I put them in mainly to ensure that they remain unnecessary.)

Policy on Late Assignments

No late submissions accepted on any work to be handed in save in exceptional circumstances. Procrastination, apathy, sloth, laziness, writer's block, pressure of other work, and most personal problems do not constitute exceptional circumstances: they are simply part of the human condition.

The following notes are provided by the Department:

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

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