



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 315 Lec 01 – “Philosophy in Literature”

Winter Term 2014

Course Outline

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00am-10:50am, MS 319

Instructor: Brandon Holter

Office: SS1224

Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 12-1pm

Phone: 403-220-6524

Email: bdholter@ucalgary.ca

Course Description:

This course will examine an array of philosophical concepts found in modern literature. Themes will include, but are not limited to:

- The proper relationship between science and society in *Cat's Cradle*;
- Human nature and society in *Lord of the Flies*;
- Ideology, Reason, and Power in *1984*;
- Value and The Good Life in *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*.

Required Texts:

Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut (1963, Holt, Rinehart and Winston)

Lord of the Flies by William Golding (1954, Faber and Faber)

1984 by George Orwell (1949, Martin, Secker and Warbug Ltd.)

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert M. Pirsig (1974, William Morrow)

Evaluation and Grading

For each novel, students will be required to turn in one paper (3-4 pages; 1,200 words max.) on a philosophical topic discussed in class. Grades will be based on *the best three of four* papers, with each paper given equal weight. Due dates are as follows:

- *Cat's Cradle*, Jan. 27
 - *Lord of the Flies*, Feb. 14
 - *1984*, March 14
 - *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, April 14
- Students may fail any one of these papers and still pass the course.
 - Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>
 - Late work will only be accepted in case of emergency.

Grading Method

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|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 96-100 = A+ | 75-79 = B | 55-59 = C- |
| 90-95 = A | 70-74 = B- | 50-54 = D+ |
| 85-89 = A- | 65-69 = C+ | 45-49 = D |
| 80-84 = B+ | 60-64 = C | below 45 = F |

BlackBoard and Email

Class information and handouts will be posted on BlackBoard. You will be sent class announcements through email, and the email account used will be the one you gave the University Registrar. So please check that account.

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.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/online services/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the PIC Office 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/undersgraduate> 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.

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 2014:

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)