



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**Philosophy 331 Lec 01  
Philosophy of Religion  
Fall 2017  
Lectures: TuTh 2.00-3.15 in SA 121**

**Outline**

Instructor: Noa Latham  
Office: SS 1250  
Phone: 220-5528 (no messages)  
Email: [latham@ucalgary.ca](mailto:latham@ucalgary.ca)  
Office hours: Tu 1-2, Th 3.30-4.30, and by appointment.

***Course Description***

This course examines philosophical issues associated with a conception of God common to the three major monotheistic religions. It begins with traditional and recent arguments for the existence of God. It then turns to a discussion of the attributes of God, and the relation between religion and morality. Next we discuss the problem of evil. And in the final part of the course we discuss the relation between theism and rationality.

***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.

***Prerequisites***

Religious Studies 205 or a previous course in Philosophy

***Required Readings*** (available at University Bookstore)

*The Miracle of Theism*

J.L. Mackie

The remaining readings are available electronically on D2L under Course Documents

***Course Requirements***

A take-home midterm due Oct 9 worth 15% of final grade, two papers 1500-1800 words due Oct 30 and Dec 1 each worth 30% of the final grade, and a take-home final exam due Dec 12 worth 25% of the final grade.

All assignments are due 4 pm in the course drop box opposite my office. Late assignments will be marked down by one grade step, e.g. from a B to a B-, 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.

I shall be using D2L to post readings, assignments and grades, to confirm what we are reading for the next lecture, and to provide some questions on those readings. All grades are assigned using a letter scale. Cumulative and final grades will be computed on the D2L site using the following numerical conversion, which has been selected only for ease of calculation:

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

Missing assignment = 0.

### **Electronic Devices**

Those wishing to use a computer to take notes are requested to sit towards the back of the class. Cell phones are not to be used in class.

### **Tentative Schedule**

Sep 12	Introduction
Sep 14, 19	The Cosmological Argument: Aquinas, Edwards, Mackie 5abc
Sep 21, 26	The Teleological Argument: Hume II-V, Mackie 8ab, Dawkins 113-134
Sep 28, Oct 3, 5	Swinburne, Mackie 5d & 8c, Dawkins 134-159
Oct 10, 12	The Ontological Argument: Descartes, Mackie 3, Anselm
Oct 17	Miracles: Hume, Mackie 1
Oct 19, 24, 26	Religious Experience: James, Broad, Alston, Mackie 10a
Oct 31, Nov 2	Goodness: Law
Nov 7	Eternity: Latham I and II
Nov 9, 14	Omniscience: Pike, Plantinga, Latham III
Nov 16	Omnipotence: Mavrodes, Mackie 9c
Nov 21, 23, 28	Problem of Evil: Hume X-XI, Mackie 9ab, Adams, Latham
Nov 30	Pragmatic Justification of Religious Belief: Pascal, Mackie 11a
Dec 5, 7	Clifford, James, Mackie 11b

### **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**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

#### **D2L Help**

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> 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 SS102, 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)), Allen Habib ([anhabib@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anhabib@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, Tram Nguyen ([tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tram.nguyen1@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>