



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 367 Lec 01 – “Science and Philosophy”

Winter Term 2013

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 9:00-9:50 am in MS 319

Instructor: Kerry McKenzie (Sponsor: Megan Delehanty)
Office: SS 1214
Phone: 403-220-3163
Email: kerry.mckenzie@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: 11-12 Wednesday and Friday

Course Description

This course is a general introduction to the philosophy of science. In it, we will investigate the nature and status of scientific knowledge, focusing on the following three core issues.

1. *Methodology*. How is scientific knowledge acquired? By what means do we justify claims such as that unobservable particles like electrons exist, or that smoking causes cancer?
2. *Demarcation*. Scientific claims seem to have a special status, but can we really say what makes a claim ‘scientific’? How do we separate science from mere quackery or ‘pseudoscience’?
3. *Realism*. Can we be sure that the unobservable entities of contemporary science, such as quarks or genes, really exist? Or should we only value science insofar as it is instrumentally useful to us in some way?

Required Texts

Curd, M. and Cover J.A. (1998): *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues*. New York: W.W. Norton and Co. (Note: additional readings will be required for this course and will be put up on Blackboard.)

Evaluation

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For more explanation, see the UC Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>. A passing grade of D (i.e. 50 or higher) is required on all assignments in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

- 30% in-class test on Friday 8th February.
- 35% paper due on Thursday 14th March.
- 35% paper due on Monday 15th April.

Please note that there will not be a Registrar-scheduled final examination. Note also that you may be required to present a text or an issue before the class, though these presentations will not be formally assessed.

Grading Method

95-100 = A+	78-80 = B+	68-70 = C+	58-60 = D+
85-94 = A	75-77 = B	65-67 = C	50-57 = D
81-84 = A-	71-74 = B-	61-64 = C-	< 50 = F

Policy on Late Assignments

No late assignments or make-up exams are permitted unless (a) agreed with me in advance or (b) a medical note is provided after the event. After the submission date, late papers will lose 5 marks per calendar day until the assignment is submitted.

Essays must be submitted as hard copies in the department dropbox by 4pm on the due date. This is located in the Philosophy Department on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal 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.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are: Sarah Damberger arts1@su.ualgary.ca; Hana Kadri arts2@su.ualgary.ca; Kelsy Norman arts3@su.ualgary.ca; Jack Mills arts4@su.ualgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. 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.

SAFEWALK

Call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and 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 2013:

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For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact
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