



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 383 Lec 1**  
**Philosophy and Psychology**  
**Summer Term 2017**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** MW 12:00 – 14:45; ST 126

**Instructor:** Brandon Beasley

**Office:** SS 1239

**Office Phone:** 403-220-6465

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

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12:00 – 14:00 or by appointment.

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the philosophy of mind. We will be examining the following topics: the nature of the mind and its relation to the body and the world; how it is that thoughts have “intentionality”, that is, how elements of the mind can be *about* things outside the mind, even things that don’t exist; the nature of emotion and its relationship to thinking; the nature of consciousness; and how consciousness and intentionality are compatible with our scientific knowledge of the natural world, including human beings.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- Understand the nature, purpose, and methodology of philosophy, and its relevance to intellectual inquiry in general and our thinking about the mind and human psychology in particular.
- Acquire knowledge of the key issues, debates, and positions on the philosophical issues discussed in the course, and understand why they are important.
- Understand and critically analyze philosophical texts covering the mind-body problem, intentionality, emotion, and consciousness.
- Learn the skills of philosophical writing, including critical analysis of a text and construction of an essay which argues for a position on one of topics covered in this course.
- Engage in constructive and respectful oral argumentation regarding relevant concepts, ideas, or theories introduced in the course.

**Academic Accommodation**

I want you to do well and succeed in this course. If you have any concerns about your ability to complete course assignments or attend class—these might be personal, health-related (including mental health), family-related (e.g. care-giving), etc.—please email me, or come see me, because I am happy to discuss this with you. The sooner I know about these, the earlier we can discuss possible adjustments or alternative arrangements for assignments, exams, and so on.

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 me.

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

### Required Texts

All required readings will be posted or linked to on D2L. Please print out the readings and bring them to class.

### Course Assessment

#### Assignments

- Critical Analysis: 20% (2-3 pages but no more than 800 words); **Due July 17<sup>th</sup>**.
- In-Class Mid-Term: 30% (Two questions, choice among several); **July 31<sup>st</sup>**.
- Final Quiz: 10% (One question, choice given); **August 16<sup>th</sup>**.
- Term Paper: 40% (5-6 pages but no more than 2,000 words); **Due August 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

In cases of a significant, steadily rising trajectory, later work will be weighted more heavily than earlier work.

Course work should be printed out, **stapled**, and submitted in class or in the Philosophy Department drop-box by 4:00pm on the date the assignment is due. **Do not submit assignments by email unless I have asked you to do so.**

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of a student's work, but primarily of the critical analysis and term paper. Writing itself is less of a factor for the mid-term exam and final quiz, but it is still important that you express your knowledge clearly.

There is no registrar-scheduled final exam.

#### Grading

Assignments will be graded on a scale from A+ to F per the following standard. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the standard 4.0 scale:

| Grade | Grade Point Value | Description                           |
|-------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A+    | 4.30              | Outstanding performance.              |
| A     | 4.00              | Excellent performance.                |
| A-    | 3.70              | Approaching excellent performance.    |
| B+    | 3.30              | Exceeding good performance.           |
| B     | 3.00              | Good performance.                     |
| B-    | 2.70              | Approaching good performance.         |
| C+    | 2.30              | Exceeding satisfactory performance.   |
| C     | 2.00              | Satisfactory performance.             |
| C-    | 1.70              | Approaching satisfactory performance. |
| D+    | 1.30              | Marginal pass.                        |
| D     | 1.00              | Minimal pass.                         |
| F     | 0.00              | Failure. Did not meet requirements.   |

The arithmetic used to calculate your final grade will follow this formula:

$$(\text{Critical Analysis})(.20) + (\text{Mid-Term})(.30) + (\text{Final Quiz})(.10) + (\text{Term Paper})(.40) = \text{Final Grade}$$

Note that, per University regulations, the highest possible Grade Point Value for your final course grade is 4.0, even if you are awarded an A+. However, should you get an A+ on an individual assignment, I will treat its value as 4.3.

#### Late Assignments

Every student is entitled to up to two (2) no-questions-asked grace days (including Saturdays and Sundays) during the semester, to be used at your discretion. You **do not** need to contact me to use these grace days.

Otherwise, documentation is generally required for further extensions to be granted, with some exceptions (see Academic Accommodation, above). In the absence of such, late assignments will be penalized one grade-step per day; i.e., a B+ assignment handed in one day late would receive a B, or if two days late, a B-, and so on.

### **Course Policies**

#### *Electronic Devices*

Unless required for accessibility or academic accommodation (see above), or discussed with me in advance, **you ought not to use** laptops, tablets, or smartphones in class to take notes. Studies have shown that, for those who are able, taking notes by hand is much better for learning and course success.<sup>1</sup> Further, because a significant part of our class will involve discussion, electronic devices generally distract students from full participation.

Further, **please do not** use such devices to send messages, browse the internet, use social media, or play games during class. You have lots of time to do that outside of class; for the time we are together, let's all devote ourselves to the consideration of these fascinating philosophical questions!

#### *Class Lectures and Discussions*

I will strive to provide an environment that is equitable and conducive to constructive learning and discussion for all students. I ask that we all be respectful of class members and their contributions to the discussion regardless of ability or personal attribute. We should all remember that it is the *argument*, not the person, that is the focus of criticism—something both those advancing an argument and those critiquing it should keep in mind. Together we can explore ideas, try out arguments, disagree respectfully, get confused, dispel confusion, learn from the philosophers we read, and from each other, and hopefully have fun, too.

### **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.

#### **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

---

<sup>1</sup> Pam A. Mueller & Daniel M. Oppenheimer, The Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking, *Psychological Science* 25: 6 (2014), 1159-1168.

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, 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>