



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 397 Lec 01
“Value Theory”
Winter Term 2017

Course Outline

Lectures: TR 14:00 – 15:15 EDC 264

Instructor: Ish Haji
Office: SS 1232
Office Phone: 403-220-3165
Email: ihaji@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: TR 12:20 – 1:20

TA: Brayden Mills-Smith
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Office Hours: WF 2:00 – 3:00

Course Description

Among the many sorts of moral appraisal are appraisals of moral blameworthiness and moral praiseworthiness, or briefly, appraisals of moral responsibility. It is widely believed that the truth of such appraisals presupposes freedom. In this course we will explore proposed accounts of the freedom responsibility requires, and whether this freedom is compatible with determinism. We will also discuss conceptual connections between moral responsibility and moral obligation.

Prerequisites

Second year standing in Philosophy or in Religious Studies and Applied Ethics.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

1. Explain key concepts, such as being a directly free action, being obligatory, being deterministically caused, and being morally responsible.
2. Critically analyze philosophical texts on free will, moral responsibility, and moral obligation.
3. Acquire in depth knowledge of key issues concerning the compatibility or incompatibility of free will or moral responsibility either with determinism or the falsity of determinism, and conceptual connections between responsibility and obligation.
4. Write a convincing argument for or against fundamental issues in free will, moral responsibility, and moral obligation.
5. Engage in constructive oral argumentation regarding relevant concepts, principles, or theories introduced in the course.

Required Texts (including electronic resources)

Incompatibilism's Allure: Principal Arguments of Incompatibilism, by Ish Haji.

Students will be supplied with a list of papers. Each of these papers is available online in journals or in other venues to which our University Library subscribes.

Course Assessment

(1) Three final papers. The first (four-page) paper will be worth 30% of the final grade. The second and third (four-page) papers will each be worth 35% of the final grade. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in evaluation. Writing should be clear, coherent, and to the point.

(2) Three Rough Drafts: For each paper you will write a one-page draft. At least one of your classmates and I will review this draft. Some of you may have your drafts workshopped by the class as a whole. These drafts are not graded, although a missing draft will reduce the grade of your final corresponding paper. (See the policy on late assignments below.)

Tentative Assignment Dates:

First draft paper: Thursday, Feb. 2

First final paper: Thursday, Feb. 9

Second draft paper: Thursday, March 2

Second final paper: Thursday, March 9

Third draft paper: Thursday, April 6

Third final paper: Tuesday, April 11

(3) Class Participation: You are expected to be an active participant in class discussions. Read the course material and have questions and comments ready.

(4) There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

(5) There will be no provisions for "extra-credit." A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole.

Grading Method:

Each paper will be assigned a letter grade. The student's overall grade for the course will be an average of the student's letter grades on the student's papers. Letter grades will be averaged by using the following scheme.

Conversion of Number Grades into Letter Grades:

A+ = 100-96; A = 95-90; A- = 89-85; B+ = 84-80; B = 79-75; B- = 74-71; C+ = 70-67; C = 66-62; C- = 61-59; D+ = 58-54; D = 53-50; F = 49-0.

Late or Missing Assignments:

No unexcused late final essays or drafts will be accepted without official and adequate documentation. Missing final essays will receive an "F" (a numerical score of zero). Each missing draft essay will reduce the grade of the final corresponding essay by two whole letter grades.

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

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. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> 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. 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), Reid Buchanan (buchanan@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (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, Merlette Schnell (schnell@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.

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

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do 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 , arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca .
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>