



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 401 Lec 01: A Classical Philosopher  
Topic 01: "Aristotle"

Winter Term 2013

Course Outline

**Lectures:** MWF 10:00-10:50, SS 541

**Instructor:** Jeremy Fischer

**Office:** SS 1212

**Phone:** 403-220-5989

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

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00am-12:00pm

**Course Description**

This course will present Aristotle as a systematic philosopher whose views on logic, metaphysics, epistemology, science, nature, and the mind structure and reinforce his views on ethics, friendship, politics, and works of literature. Reading assignments, lectures, and written assignments will focus primarily on Aristotle's texts, though we will also use a recent book by Christopher Shields to illuminate these texts and to highlight important interpretive and critical issues.

**Required Texts**

- (1) Aristotle, *Aristotle: Selections*, Terrence Irwin and Gail Fine, editors (Hackett, 1995).
- (2) Christopher Shields, *Aristotle* (Routledge, 2007).

**Evaluation**

1. 13 weekly homework assignments: 50% of the final grade.
  - a. Each assignment will be posted on Blackboard approximately one week before it is due.
  - b. Homework assignments will consist of reconstructing and/or evaluating arguments or passages from the assigned text for the class on which they are due. Most assignments will require about one page of writing.
  - c. Assignments must be typed, double-spaced in a 12-point font, printed out, and ready to submit at the beginning of the class on which they are due.
  - d. During lecture you may correct by hand any errors you have made in your typed assignment for that day, and I will award you partial credit of up to 50% for your in-class corrections. So, for example, if your typed homework assignment would have received a score of 6 out of 10 points, and if you correct your homework's mistakes by hand by the end of the class on the day on which it is due, then you will receive a score of 8 out of 10 points.
  - e. One purpose of these assignments and the grading policy described in (1d) is to have you engage with the lecture in a more sophisticated way and participate in class. To this end, you must submit your assignments in person. Emailed assignments and assignments submitted by a classmate will not be accepted.

- f. Since these assignments will be of varying length and difficulty, some will be worth more than others towards your final grade. Each assignment will be worth between 3% and 8% of your final grade.
- g. You may not collaborate with others on any homework assignment.
2. One closed-book in-class midterm examination, on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>: 20% of the final grade.
3. One open-book take-home final examination, due via Blackboard by Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>: 20% of the final grade.
4. Class Participation: 10% of the final grade.
  - a. Class participation includes participating in classroom discussions, visiting office hours, and corresponding with me via email about the material of the course. You should aim to participate in some way at least once every two weeks, on average.
5. There will not be any Registrar-scheduled final examination.
6. A passing grade on each of the two main components of the course—homework assignments and exams—is essential if the student is to pass the course as a whole.
7. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

## Grading Method

Conversion of percentage of 400 total points to letter grade:

95-100 = A+	85-87 = B+	75-77 = C+	64-67 = D+
92-94 = A	82-84 = B	72-74 = C	59-63 = D
88-91 = A-	78-81 = B-	68-71 = C-	< 59 = F

Students close to the borderline of a higher grade will be bumped up only if they have completed all assignments and the final exam reflects the higher score.

## Policy on Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted except in the event of a personal emergency.

### **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.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca); Hana Kadri [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca); Kelsy Norman [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca); Jack Mills [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.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 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building  
and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### **PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR WINTER 2013:**

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