



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 451 Lec 01: Contemporary Ethical Theories**

**Winter Term 2013**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: MWF 2:00-2:50, 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, 12:30pm-1:30pm

**Course Description**

This course will provide both (i) a wide-ranging survey of accounts of particular factors (such as well-being, desert, doing harm, intending harm, lying, promising, and rights) that seem to be relevant to the moral status of our actions, and (ii) a detailed consideration of the moral theories (especially varieties of consequentialism and deontology) that most plausibly explain the relevance of these particular factors.

**Required Texts**

1. Shelly Kagan, *Normative Ethics* (Westview, 1997).

**Evaluation**

1. Three short (3-5 page) essay assignments, the first one of which must be revised and resubmitted with responses to my comments.
  - a. Essay #1, due January 25<sup>th</sup>, is worth 10% of the final grade.
  - b. Revised Essay #1, due February 8<sup>th</sup>, is worth 5% of the final grade.
  - c. Essay #2, due March 11<sup>th</sup>, is worth 15% of the final grade.
  - d. Essay #3, due April 8<sup>th</sup>, is worth 20% of the final grade.
2. One closed-book in-class midterm examination, on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>: 20%
3. One open-book take-home final examination, due via Blackboard by Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>: 20%
4. Class Participation: 10%
  - 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—essay 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

There will be a penalty for late assignments except in the event of a personal emergency, unless an extension was arranged in advance.

### **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](mailto:arts1@su.ualgary.ca); Hana Kadri [arts2@su.ualgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ualgary.ca); Kelsy Norman [arts3@su.ualgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ualgary.ca); Jack Mills [arts4@su.ualgary.ca](mailto: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 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:**

Ann Levey ([levey@ucalgary.ca](mailto:levey@ucalgary.ca))

Jeremy Fantl ([ifantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ifantl@ucalgary.ca))

Lorraine Markotic ([lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca))

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact  
Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca))