



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 453 Lec 01**  
**“Social and Political Philosophy”**  
**Fall Term 2017**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 11:00-11:50 in MS 217**

**Instructor: David G. Dick**

**Office: SS 1224**

**Office Phone: (403) 220-6434**

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

**Office Hours: Mondays 2-4 pm, and by appointment**

**Course Description**

This course intends to provide exposure to political philosophy through a focused engagement with the issue of economic justice. The class will seek to answer two related questions: 1) What is the proper way to allocate resources (monetary and otherwise) and 2) What is the proper role of the state in that allocation? Attention will be given to both theories of justice from historical and contemporary philosophers as well as to specific topics such as wealth, property, and tax.

**Prerequisites:**

Two previous courses in philosophy, at least one of which must be a 300 or higher level course and one of which must be 249 or 397, or consent of the Department.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Students in this class will gain or refine

- A deep knowledge of one central area of philosophical inquiry, political philosophy;
- An ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources;
- An ability to write and revise a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- An ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

**Required/Recommended Texts (including electronic resources):**

*Philosophy 453 Coursepack*, available at the University Bookstore

Additional materials will be indicated via the D2L site for this class.

Available at: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/>

## Course Assessment

Weekly Questions:	10%	
Short Papers:	50%	(Details on due dates below.)
Final Paper:	40%	Due: <b>Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon.</b>

This course has no Registrar administered final exam, only a final paper.

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>

Weekly questions are to be submitted in person at the beginning of class in hard copy. They will not be accepted at other times or in other forms.

Short papers will not be accepted after their designated due date has passed.

Final papers are accepted late, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period overdue. So, an A- paper submitted in the first 24 hours after it was due will receive a B-, if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-, and so on. Once a paper is late, it should be submitted via email (to me at [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) as soon as it is ready.

The final paper must be a revision of one of the three short papers. It is therefore not possible to pass the class without submitting at least one short paper that can then be revised into the final paper. A student submitting no short papers may not submit the final paper and they will receive an F (0.0) for both the short papers and long paper, guaranteeing a final grade of F (0.0) for the course.

### Weekly Questions:

Each week on a class day of your choosing, I'd like you to submit a question based on the reading for the day that you submit the question. The question you write should convince me that you've read the day's reading, at least well enough to be confused by it. I'm not kidding: confusion is a philosophical heuristic, it either helps you identify a place where you don't understand, or where the argument doesn't make sense. Either one of these counts as philosophical progress. These questions and their explanations need not be any longer than about half a page. (I'll post an example of what I mean to D2L.)

Weekly questions are only accepted when submitted in person at the beginning of each class, and only in hard copy. Barring extraordinary and documented serious emergencies, missed weekly questions cannot be made up.

There are 13 weeks in the semester but you only owe me 12 weekly questions for the term. It's entirely up to you which week you'd like to pass on. Extra weekly questions beyond this 12 will be read, but will not count for any extra credit.

Weekly questions can be hand written, but keeping an electronic file with your weekly questions can be helpful both for studying and for keeping track of how many you've turned in.

Weekly questions are to be submitted in person at the beginning of class in hard copy. They will not be accepted at other times or in other forms.

### Short Papers:

Three short papers are required for this class. Their due dates are as follows:

First Short Paper:	Due no later than 11:00 am on Wednesday, <b>Oct 11</b>
Second Short Paper:	Due no later than 11:00 am on Wednesday, <b>Nov 1</b>
Third Short Paper:	Due no later than 11:00 am on Friday, <b>Nov 24</b>

Short papers are accepted prior to their due dates, but not after. This means that even if the first short paper you submit arrives after the due date for the First Short Paper, but before the deadline for the Second Short Paper, it counts as the Second Short Paper.

I prefer short papers to be handed in in class in hard copy, but will accept them via email ([dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) if this is necessary to meet the deadline for them.

Short papers will be graded pass/fail according to detailed specifications distributed before the first one is due. The letter grade for the Short Papers portion of the final grade calculation will be determined as follows:

3 Passing Short Papers =	A (4.0)
2 Passing Short Papers =	B (3.0)
1 Passing Short Paper =	C (2.0)
0 Passing Short Papers =	F (0.0)

Short papers will not be accepted after their designated due date has passed.

### Final Papers:

The final paper is due Thursday, December 14th at 12:00 noon. Papers should be submitted via email to [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca). It must be a revision of one of the student's previously submitted short papers. It will be graded on the 0.0-4.3 scale described below.

Detailed instructions for the final paper will be distributed in advance of this due date.

Final papers are accepted late, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period overdue. So, an A- paper submitted in the first 24 hours after it was due will receive a B-, if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-, and so on. Once a paper is late, it should be submitted via email (to me at [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) as soon as it is ready.

### **Letter Grade Conversion Table**

With the exception of short papers, all evaluated material will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the standard 4.0 scale:

4.3 – A+	3.3 – B+	2.3 – C+	1.3 – D+	0.0 – F
4.0 – A	3.0 – B	2.0 – C	1.0 – D	
3.7 – A–	2.7 – B–	1.7 – C–		

The arithmetic that will calculate your final grade will follow this formula:

$$(W. Questions).10 + (Short Papers).50 + (Final Paper).40 = \text{Final Grade}$$

## **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.

### **Academic Accommodation**

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

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](https://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 their 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 Fantl ([jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)), Allen Habib ([anhabib@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anhabib@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>