



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 397 Lec 01: "Value Theory"**  
**Winter Term 2010**

**Course Outline**

**Instructor:** Dennis McKerlie

**Lectures:** MWF 9:00-9:50 in SS 541

**Office:** SS 1236

**Phone:** 220-5989

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

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00

**Course Description**

This course has two goals: to get you to read and think about some philosophical questions concerned with value, and to help you acquire the writing skills that are important for this course and for more advanced courses in philosophy. The subject matter of the course will be built around the question of what makes a person's life count as a good life, or a life that achieves well-being. We will consider a series of ethical issues that arise during our lives as we progress from youth to old age and live through the distinctive temporal stages of a human life. For more information about the subject matter of the course please see the Plan for the Course.

**Readings**

The readings for the course are available electronically through the library. I will post some readings on the Blackboard link for the course.

**Course Requirements:**

Because a goal of the course is to improve writing skills you will be asked to write three essays during the course. The first two essays will be 8 pp., the third essay will be 12 pp. In the case of each essay you will submit a rough draft to me before you turn in the essay itself. You will have a choice of topics to write about. The first essay will be worth 25% of the final grade, the second essay will be worth 35%, and the third essay will be worth 40%. The dates for submission of the essays are Friday February 12, Friday March 12, and Friday April 9.

There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam in the course.

**Grading System:**

There will be a penalty for late assignments unless an extension was arranged in advance. The system for converting number grades to letter grades will be:

A+ 95-100	A 85-94	A- 80-84	B+ 75-79	B 70-74	B- 65-69
C+ 60-64	C 55-59	C- 50-54	D+ 45-49	D 40-44	F 0-39

## **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 is an extremely serious offence. 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, please 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 REPRESENTATIVE**

The Humanities Representative is Britney Luimes, MSC 251, [humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca) or 220-3913.