



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 423 Lec 01 – “Metaphysics”
Winter Term 2010**

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 1000-1050 in ST 125

Instructor: Noa Latham

Office: SS 1250

Phone: 220-5528

Email: latham@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays 1:30-2:30, and by appointment

Course Description

We'll be examining what categories of existent we need to characterise the world. We'll look into the question whether there are fundamental features of the world upon which all the remaining features depend. And we'll be looking into what role laws play in the way the world works. The course will begin with a brief history of the problems, then turn to Armstrong's book on Universals, interspersed with various readings from other contemporary authors.

Required Reading

- David Armstrong, *Universals: An Opinionated Introduction* (available at Bookstore)
- Package of Supplementary Readings (available at Bound and Copied)
- Links to papers available online

Course Requirements

A take home midterm due Feb 9 worth 15% of the final grade, two papers 1800-2400 words (6-8 pages) due Feb 26 and April 15 worth 30% each, and a Registrar-scheduled final exam worth 25% of the final grade. The first three assignments are due 4pm in the drop box opposite my office. Class participation and improvement over the semester can boost your grade by as much as one grade step (e.g. from B to B+). Cumulative and final grades will be computed by Gradebook on the Blackboard site using the following scale:

A+	98-100	B+	86-89	C+	74-77	D+	62-65
A	94-97	B	82-85	C	70-73	D	58-61
A-	90-93	B-	78-81	C-	66-69	F	0-57

Late papers will be marked down by one grade step for each day of lateness. (The time between Fri and Mon counts as one day.) If you are anticipating any difficulty in turning your assignment in on time you must discuss the problem with me before the due date.

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 or 220-3913.