

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Philosophy 201 Lec 01 “Problems of Philosophy”

Fall 2008

Lectures: MWF 10.00-10.50 in ICT 116

Course Outline

Instructor: Noa Latham
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Course Description

We will begin by discussing some basic concepts and issues concerning how we acquire our beliefs. Then we will examine ways our beliefs may be mistaken or unreasonable, whether we can deceive ourselves, and whether we can be massively deceived by our senses. Next we will examine how the mind and body are related, the emotions, and free will. The final section of the course will discuss the problem of the relation between religion and morality first raised by Plato, and the justification of religious belief. A course packet consisting of readings from classical and contemporary texts is available at the University Bookstore.

Course Requirements

- Two papers 1200-1800 words (4-6 pages) worth 25% each. Due Oct 27 and Dec 5, 4pm in the assignment drop box for this course located in the main hallway of the Philosophy Department (Social Sciences Building, 12th floor).
- A take-home midterm exam worth 20%. Handed out in class Oct 3 and due Oct 6, 4pm in the drop box for this course located in the Philosophy Department.
- A Registrar-scheduled final exam worth 25% (to be scheduled by the Exams Office).
- Class participation in lectures and tutorial discussion counts for 5%.

Cumulative and final grades will be computed by Gradebook on the Blackboard site using the following scale: A+=100, A=96, A-=92, ... D=60, F=56.

Late papers and midterms will be marked down by one grade step (e.g. from B to B-) 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 your T.A. before the due date.

Course Website

A course website has been set up on U of C's Blackboard server. You should be automatically signed up if you're registered in the class. Log in with your UCS user ID and password. You can find the website at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>. I shall be using Blackboard to post short notes, grades, assignments, to confirm what we are reading for the next lecture, and to provide some questions on those readings.

Tentative Schedule

Sep 8	Introduction
	<u>Epistemology</u>
Sep 10	Audi Introduction to <i>Belief, Justification, and Knowledge</i>
Sep 12	Law “Into the Lair of the Relativist”
Sep 15, 17	Mele “Real Self-deception”
Sep 19	Sartre “Bad Faith” excerpt
Sep 22, 24	Descartes <i>Meditation 1</i>
Sep 26	Russell “The Existence of Matter”
Sep 29	Descartes <i>Meditation 2</i>
	<u>Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind</u>
Oct 1	Descartes <i>Discourse</i> excerpt
Oct 3, 6, 8	Smith and Jones “Difficulties for the Dualist”
Oct 10, 15, 17	Searle “Minds Brains and Programs”
Oct 20, 22	Chalmers “The Puzzle of Conscious Experience”
Oct 24	Aristotle <i>Rhetoric</i> excerpt
Oct 27, 29, 31	Solomon “Emotions and Choice”
Nov 3, 5, 7	Latham “The Relevance of Libertarian Freedom”
Nov 12, 14	Strawson “Freedom and Resentment”
Nov 17, 19	Frankfurt “Alternative Possibilities and Moral Responsibility”
	<u>Philosophy of Religion</u>
Nov 21, 24	Plato <i>Euthyphro</i>
Nov 26	Law “Can we have Morality without God and Religion?”
Nov 28	Pascal “The Wager”
Dec 1	Clifford “The Ethics of Belief”
Dec 3	James “The Will to Believe”
Dec 5	Pojman “Faith, Hope, and Doubt”

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious offence, the penalty for which is 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:*

1. *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),*
2. *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
3. *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
4. *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

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Center, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Center are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. (DRC web address is: www.ucalgary.ca go to Campus Services, click on Disability Resource Center.)

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The Humanities Representative this year is Daniel Pagan, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.