THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Philosophy 201 Lec 03
"Problems of Philosophy"
<u>Fall 2008</u>

Instructor: Reid Buchanan
Office: Social Sciences 1252
Phone: 403-220-3168
Email: buchanar@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Thursday, 4:00-6:30

Lectures: Thursday 6:30–9:00 pm
Location: ST 132

Teaching Assistant: Makmiller Pedroso
Office: Social Sciences 1231
Phone: 403-220-8622
Email: makmiller@gmail.com
Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:45-4:45

REQUIRED TEXT:

Introduction to Philosophy, Perry, Bratman, and Fischer (eds.), 4th edition.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:
This course offers a "problems" based introduction to philosophy. We will examine some of the most central and intractable philosophical problems—including the Problem of Knowledge, the Mind/Body Problem, the Problem of Freedom, and the Existence of God—from a number of angles, with emphasis being placed on *nature* of the problems themselves (as opposed to proposed solutions to them). In particular, we will focus on the types of considerations that give rise to each problem, why they constitute *problems*, and what this suggests about possible resolutions of them. The primary objective of the course is to provide exposure to the depth, complexity (and often perplexity) of philosophical inquiry, and to equip students with the skills to engage in such inquiry.

COURSE WORK AND EVALUATION:
The course work will consist of two in-class exams, a quiz, and a term paper. The weight assigned for each requirement is as follows:

Item	% of Course Grade	Date
Exam 1	30	October 9
Exam 2	30	November 20
Quiz	10	December 4
Term Paper	30	December 4

ASSIGNMENT OF LETTER GRADES:
Letter grades will be assigned in accordance with the following scale:

95-100 = A+	77-79 = B+	67-69 = C+	56-59 = D+
85-89 = A	73-76 = B	63-66 = C	50-55 = D
80-84 = A-	72-70 = B-	60-62 = C-	0-49 = F

COURSE POLICIES:
I expect that the course will proceed as described in accordance with the course schedule. However, unforeseen contingencies, e.g., particular difficulty or ease with a section of the course, may necessitate changes in the dates listed on the schedule.

*Students with special needs should contact me as soon as possible.

Attendance
Attendance is not mandatory, but I do expect you to make every effort to be present at each session. Excepting extraordinary circumstances, I expect advance notice that you will be unable to attend class for an exam or to submit an assignment by the due date.

How to contact me
You can reach me during my office hours or make an appointment to see me at some other time. If you wish to make an appointment, please contact me directly by telephone or E-mail. Perhaps the best way to reach me is through E-mail, which I typically check a number of times each day.
I encourage you to offer me feedback about any aspect of the course — it is important for me to know how you think things are going, and to be flexible enough to adjust to your needs.

Missed and late course work
Medical or other formal documentation will be required for a missed exam. Without suitable documentation, you will not be permitted to re-schedule the exam, and you will receive a grade of zero. Late assignments will lose 20% of their value each day (or portion of the day) that they are late *unless* accompanied by medical or other documentation. After five days, late assignments without documentation will not be accepted and you will receive a score of zero.

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 Accommodations
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.

Student's Union Representative
The Humanities Representative is Daniel Pagan, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.