



**PHIL 201 Lec 01**  
**“Mind, Matter and God”**  
Fall Term 2019  
TuTh 12:30-1:45, ENE 239

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor Name:** Marc Ereshefsky  
**Email:** ereshefs@ucalgary.ca  
**Office:** SS1204  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 2:00-3:30 & by appointment  
**Office Phone:** (403) 220-3162

**Teaching Assistant Name:** Husna Farooqui  
**Email:** husna.farooqui@ucalgary.ca  
**Office:** Social Sciences 1237  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 3:30-4:30  
**Office Phone:** (403) 220-6465

**COURSE INFORMATION**

This class is a general introduction to philosophy. It will focus on three areas of philosophy: epistemology, philosophy of science, and philosophy of mind. Epistemology explores how we obtain knowledge. Philosophy of science asks what makes a theory scientific. Philosophy of mind attempts to provide an account of the mind.

**PREREQUISITE(S)**

None

**COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, traditions, and views.
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources.
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

**REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS**

*First Philosophy: Fundamental Problems and Readings in Philosophy*, Second Edition (2011), edited by Andrew Bailey (with Robert Martin). Broadview Press.

**COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

- Three in-class tests and five homework assignments are required.
- No Registrar scheduled final will be given.
- Here is the schedule for tests and homework assignments, as well as their point values.

September 19	Homework #1	50
September 26	Homework #2	75
October 3	Test #1	250
October 24	Homework #3	75
October 31	Homework #4	75
November 7	Test #2	300

November 28	Homework #5	75
December 5	Test #3	<u>100</u>
		1000

- Tests will be given in class. Tests are closed book –no notes or the text can be used during the test.
- Homework will be collected in class.
- No single test or homework is required to pass the course.
- No make-up tests will be given or late homework assignments accepted without an appropriate excuse.
- Final grades will be awarded as follows.

960-1000 = A+	800-839 = B	680-699 = C-
900-959 = A	780-799 = B-	640-679 = D+
880-899 = A-	740-779 = C+	600-639 = D
840-879 = B+	700-739 = C	below 600 = F

**D2L and Email:** Class information and handouts will be posted on D2L. You'll be sent class announcements through email and the email account used will be the one you gave the University Registrar. So please check that account.

**Tutorials:** A teaching assistant will lead tutorials. The teaching assistant will clarify course material and will highlight which course material is most important for homework and tests. The teaching assistant will also answer your questions and offer help on homework and tests.

### Topics and Readings

#### *Introduction to Philosophy and Logic*

What is Philosophy?

An Introduction to Arguments

#### *Epistemology*

Rene Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (selections)

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (selections)

#### *Philosophy of Science*

C.S. Pierce, "The Fixation of Belief"

Carl Popper, "Science: Conjectures and Refutations"

Kathleen Okruhlik, "Gender and Biological Sciences" in Canadian Journal of Philosophy

Supplementary volume 20, *Biology and Society: Reflections on Methodology*, Mohan Matthen and Robert Ware editors (1994), pp. 21-42. This chapter is available in an ebook through the University of Calgary Library website.

#### *Philosophy of Mind*

Gilbert Ryle, "Descartes's Myth"

John Searle, "Minds, Brains and Programs"

### IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

#### Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://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/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf). Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to

fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

### **Absence or Missed Course Assessments**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html)

### **Student Support and Resources**

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at [ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines](http://ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines)

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

### **Academic Advising**

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit [phil.ucalgary.ca](http://phil.ucalgary.ca). Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca)).

### **Writing Assessment and Support**

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit [ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://ucalgary.ca/ssc).

### **Online Resources and Electronic Devices**

Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit [ucalgary.service-now.com/it](http://ucalgary.service-now.com/it) for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. 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.

**Academic Misconduct/Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

**University Policies**

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf)

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at [ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip](http://ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip). The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act ([laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).