



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**PHIL 249 Lec 02 – “Morality, Virtue and Society”**

**Fall Term 2013**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** EN A 101; MWF 2:00-2:50

**Instructor:** Dr. Jeremy Fischer

**Office:** SS 1212

**Phone:** 403-220-5989

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

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 pm, and  
by appointment

**TA:** Justin Caouette

**Office:** SS 1229

**Phone:** (403) 220-7518

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

**Office Hours:** Th 2:00-4:00 pm

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to moral theory. We will be looking at both classic and contemporary writers' answers to questions such as: Why should people be moral? What distinguishes right actions from wrong ones? What distinguishes good persons from bad ones? You will learn to read difficult philosophical texts carefully and analytically, and to write about them in ways that demonstrate clear critical understanding of what you've read.

**Required Texts**

All texts are available online and can be downloaded either directly from the course Blackboard website or from websites that will be linked to Blackboard.

**Evaluation**

Grades are determined by performance in the following five areas. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course.

**1. Three Study Question Assignments. (10% of the course grade)**

Each of the three study question assignments will consist of three questions relating to the assigned texts. Study question assignments are due before the beginning of class on the following days and are to be submitted via the “Study Question Assignments” section on Blackboard: September 13<sup>th</sup>, September 20<sup>th</sup>, and September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Two short essay assignments. (35% of the course grade)**

These essays—due October 7<sup>th</sup> (15% of the course grade) and November 22<sup>nd</sup> (20% of the course grade)—will consist of your responses to questions that will be distributed to you at least two weeks before the essays are due. Each essay should be between three and four pages in length.

3. One in-class midterm exam (20% of the course grade)

The midterm exam—which will take place on November 1<sup>st</sup>—will consist of short concept identification questions and short essay questions.

4. Take-home Final Exam. (20% of the course grade)

The open-book final exam—to be submitted via Blackboard by 11:59 pm on December 9<sup>th</sup>—will consist of a mixture of short concept identification questions and short essay questions. There is no Registrar scheduled final exam.

5. Class Participation. (15% of the course grade)

Participation during lectures is encouraged. Five percent (5%) of the course grade will be based upon in-class responses, via Top Hat, to instructor questions. To successfully earn this portion of the grade, students must respond (with correct or incorrect answers) to at least 80% of the (approximately 50) Top Hat questions asked during the semester's lectures. Answering less than 80% of the questions will result in a proportionately lower grade. Instructions for Top Hat, as well as accommodations for students who do not regularly bring the requisite cell phones or portable computers to class, will be discussed during the first week of class. Attendance and participation during tutorials is also encouraged. Ten percent (10%) of the course grade will be based upon your contributions to your tutorial. This grade is determined by your tutor. The tutor will provide, in writing, more information about his expectations for your contributions on or before the first tutorial session.

## Grading Scale

385-400 = A+	340-354 = B+	295-309 = C+	250-264 = D+
370-384 = A	325-339 = B	280-294 = C	235-249 = D
355-369 = A-	310-324 = B-	265-279 = C-	< 235 = F

Students on the borderline of two grades will be bumped up only if they have completed all assignments and if the final exam reflects the higher score.

## Policy on Late Assignments

Late Study Question Assignments will not be accepted and exams cannot be taken late, except in the event of a personal emergency. Short essays will be penalized by ten percentage points for each day they are late, except in the event of a personal emergency.

## Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. 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 correct referencing, consult your instructor.

## Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for 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. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

## Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/oneservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

## Student Advising and Information Resources

- **General Academic Concerns** – Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Program Planning** – For assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit it on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

## Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

## Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

## Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

### PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2013:

Chris Framarin [chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca)

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For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact  
Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca))