



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 249 Lec 01
Morality, Virtue and Society
Fall Term 2014**

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 11-11.50 in A 140

Instructor: Noa Latham

Office: SS1250

Office Phone: 220-5528

Email: latham@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: M 2-3, W 9.30-10.30, and by appt.

TA: Gordon Cooper

Office: SS1242

Office Phone: 220-6464

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Office Hours: M/W 12-1 or by appt.

Course Description

We will begin by discussing the relation between religion and morality. Next we will examine different ideas about what is good for a person. Then we will turn to the two most influential approaches to understanding what actions are right, and their two most famous advocates—John Stuart Mill and Immanuel Kant. Then we will discuss whether morality is objective, and finally we will look at some practical issues: overpopulation, poverty, animals and euthanasia.

Required Texts

A course package of readings from classical and contemporary sources is available at the University Bookstore.

Course Requirements

A take-home midterm due Oct 6 worth 25% of the final grade, two papers 1200-1500 words (4-5 pages) due Oct 30 and Dec 8, worth 25% of the final grade each, and a take-home final exam, due Dec 15, worth 25%. There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.

Participation in class discussion in lectures and tutorials by answering questions and offering thoughts and questions of your own can increase your grade by as much as one grade step (e.g. from B- to B).

Cumulative and final grades will be computed by the D2L 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

You are not required to complete all assignments to pass the course, but the grade for a missing assignment is 0.

Late Policy

Midterm and papers are due at 4pm in the drop box outside my office. The final exam is to be submitted digitally. 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 or your T.A. before the due date.

Electronic Devices

Those wishing to use a computer to take notes are requested to sit in the back rows of the class. Cell phones should be switched off for the duration of the class.

Course Website

I shall be using D2L 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	
Sep 10	Religion and Morality	Steven Law
Sep 12		
Sep 15		
Sep 17	The Good for a Person	Mill
Sep 19		Nozick
Sep 22		Brandt
Sep 24		Finnis
Sep 26		Parfit
Sep 29		
Oct 1	Utilitarianism	Mill
Oct 3		
Oct 6		Williams
Oct 8		
Oct 10	Deontology	Ross
Oct 13	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Oct 15		
Oct 17		Kant
Oct 20		
Oct 22		
Oct 24		Langton
Oct 27		
Oct 29	Subjectivity	Mackie
Oct 31		Rachels
Nov 3		Smith
Nov 5	Overpopulation	Parfit
Nov 7		
Nov 10	Reading day. No class.	
Nov 12	Poverty	Singer
Nov 14		
Nov 17		McGinn
Nov 19	Animals	Singer
Nov 21		McGinn
Nov 24		Rachels
Nov 26		U.N. Report
Nov 28	Euthanasia	Rachels
Dec 1		Sullivan
Dec 3		Foot
Dec 5		

Academic Honesty

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, 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. 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.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's learning management system which has now replaced BlackBoard. Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/> for more information on common academic concerns.
- **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. For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: 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 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2014:

Chris Framarin (Undergrad Director) chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

Reid Buchanan buchanar@ucalgary.ca

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) migotti@ucalgary.ca

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