



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 249 Lec 11
Morality, Virtue and Society
Fall Term 2019

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 11-11:50 in AD 140

Instructor:	Noa Latham	TA:	Nigel Freno
Office:	SS1250	Office:	SS 12th floor (room TBD)
Office Phone:	220-5528	Office Phone:	TBD
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Office Hours:	M 10-11, F 2-3, and by appt.	Office Hours:	TBD

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.

Prerequisite(s)

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Learning Objectives

Throughout the course you will be attempting to come to your own conclusions regarding the issues discussed by assessing arguments for and against the views presented in the readings. You will be developing your ability to comprehend, interpret, and analyse complex sources, as well as to recognise and construct convincing arguments both in writing and orally.

Required Readings

A selection of readings from classical and contemporary sources is available under Content on D2L.

Course Requirements

A take-home midterm due Sep 30 worth 20% of the final grade, two papers 1200-1500 words (4-5 pages) due Oct 24 and Dec 5 worth 25% of the final grade each, and a registrar-scheduled final exam, worth 30%.

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). All grades are assigned using a letter scale. Cumulative and final grades will be computed on the D2L site using the following numerical conversion, which has been selected only for ease of calculation:

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. 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 completing your assignment in on time you must discuss the problem with me or your TA before the due date. If you have finished your paper but are having difficulty getting it to the dropbox on time, you may email me a copy before 4pm on the due date and drop off a hard copy the next day.

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 6	Introduction	
Sep 9	Religion and Morality	Steven Law
Sep 11		
Sep 13		
Sep 16	The Good for a Person	Mill
Sep 18		Nozick
Sep 20		Brandt
Sep 23		Finnis
Sep 25		Parfit
Sep 27		
Sep 30	Utilitarianism	Mill
Oct 2		Williams
Oct 4		
Oct 7	Deontology	Ross
Oct 9		
Oct 11		Kant
Oct 14	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Oct 16		
Oct 18		Langton
Oct 21		
Oct 23	Subjectivity	Mackie
Oct 25		Rachels
Oct 28		Smith
Oct 30		
Nov 1	Overpopulation	Parfit
Nov 4		
Nov 6	Poverty	Singer
Nov 8		
Nov 18	Animals	Singer

Nov 20		
Nov 22		Rachels
Nov 25		U.N. Report
Nov 27	Euthanasia	Rachels
Nov 29		Sullivan
Dec 2		Foot
Dec 4		
Dec 6		

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.

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. 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

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at 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 for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

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

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 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.

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

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. 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) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).