



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 249 Lec 03 – “Morality, Virtue, and Society”

Winter Term 2014

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 10-10:50, A142

Instructor: Justin Caouette

Office: SS 1229

Phone: 403-220-3165

Email: jcaouett@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: M W 11-12:30, and by appointment

TA: Alison Renas

Office: SS 1231

Phone: 403-220-8622

Email: akrenas@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: M F 11-12:00, T 12:30-1:30

Course Description

This course is an introduction to ethical 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? How should I live my life? I believe that such questions are of the utmost importance and some of the deepest that we can consider. 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. We will focus on different moral appraisals and we will examine some of the central moral theories in the western tradition. There are a number of different moral appraisals; some concern the evaluation of actions, others the evaluation of character, others the evaluation of lives, and yet others the evaluation of persons. We will examine moral theories of each of these types of appraisal. We will also take up some questions in applied ethics including the morality of abortion, the treatment of animals, and the morality of punishment. Hopefully, by the end of the course you will have considered the foundations of your own philosophical views on how best to live your own life.

Required Texts

(1) James Rachels, *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* (7th Edition)

(2) Stephen Cahn, *Ethics Reader* (5th Edition)

Evaluation

There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam. There will be two in-class exams, each worth 15% of the total grade, and an in-class final exam worth 10% of the total grade. In addition, there will be one paper, to be submitted in class, which will be worth 30% of the total grade and one in-class quiz worth 10% of the total grade. The remaining 20% of your total grade will be related to your participation on twitter. You will be required to

tweet articles related to the course using the hashtag provided by the instructor a minimum of 10 times during the semester, this will constitute 10% of your twitter mark. The remaining 10% will be a one page summary of one of your tweeted stories from the semester, which will be submitted in class. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in evaluation on all written assignments. Writing should be clear, coherent, and to the point. A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole.

Tentative Assignment Dates:

Exam 1:	(in class, closed-book) Wed Jan. 29
Exam 2:	(in class, closed-book) Wed Feb. 26
Paper:	(to be submitted in class) Wed March 12
Summary:	(to be submitted in class) Mon March 31
Tweets:	(10 tweets throughout the semester, no more than 1 per day for credit) ongoing
Quiz:	(in class, closed-book) Wed April 9
Final Exam:	(in class, closed-book) Fri April 11

Grading Method/Scale

Conversion of Number Grades into Percentage Grades:

A+ = 495-500; A = 450-494; A- = 430-449; B+ = 410-429; B = 390-409; B- = 370-389; C+ = 350-369; C = 330-349; C- = 310-329; D+= 290-309; D = 250-289; F = 0-249.

Policy on Late Assignments

Late papers are accepted , with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period late. So, an A paper submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C. Once a paper is late, it should be submitted via email (to me at jcaouett@ucalgary.ca) as soon as it is ready.

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.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/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 and Program Planning– 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. Advisors in the PIC Office 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/undersgraduate> for detailed 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 WINTER 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)