



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 249 Lec 01
Morality, Virtue and Society
Winter Term 2019

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 11-11.50 in SA 104

Instructor:	Noa Latham	TA:	Nima Khodabandeh
Office:	SS1250	Office:	SS1227
Office Phone:	220-5528	Office Phone:	220-6463
Email:	latham@ucalgary.ca	Email:	nima.khodabandeh@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours:	M 10-11, F 2-3, and by appt.	Office Hours:	M 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.

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 Feb 4 worth 20% of the final grade, two papers 1200-1500 words (4-5 pages) due Mar 5 and Apr 12, 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). Cumulative and final grades will be computed by the D2L site using the following scale, which has been chosen solely for ease of computation:

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 on time you must discuss the problem with me or your T.A. before the due date. If you have finished your paper but are having difficulty in getting it to the drop box 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

Jan 11	Introduction	
Jan 14	Religion and Morality	Steven Law
Jan 16		
Jan 18		
Jan 21	The Good for a Person	Mill
Jan 23		Nozick
Jan 25		Brandt
Jan 28		Finnis
Jan 30		Parfit
Feb 1		
Feb 4	Utilitarianism	Mill
Feb 6		
Feb 8		Williams
Feb 11		
Feb 13	Deontology	Ross
Feb 15		
	Winter Holiday	
Feb 25		Kant
Feb 27		
Mar 1		Langton
Mar 4		
Mar 6	Subjectivity	Mackie
Mar 8		Rachels
Mar 11		Smith
Mar 13		
Mar 15	Overpopulation	Parfit
Mar 18		
Mar 20	Poverty	Singer
Mar 22		
Mar 25		
Mar 27	Animals	Singer
Nov 29		
Apr 1		Rachels
Apr 3		U.N. Report
Apr 5	Euthanasia	Rachels
Apr 8		Sullivan
Apr 10		Foot
Apr 12		

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded 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. See the relevant section K.5 on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.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 correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

General Academic Concerns and Program Planning

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising> 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 Undergraduate Advisors. David Dick – Undergraduate Program Director (dgdick@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty – Honors Advisor (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca) or Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca).

Registration Overload/Prerequisite Waivers

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prerequisites for a course, email the Philosophy Department Undergraduate Program Administrator (UPA), Rebecca Lesser (rebecca.lesser@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

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 or teaching assistant.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging 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

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> . Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca , arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>