



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 264 Lec 01
How Do We Know?
Fall Term 2018

Course Outline

Lectures: TR 14:00-15:15, TI Forum

Instructor: Dr Megan Delehanty
Office: SS1240
Office Phone: 403-220-2828
Email: mdelehan@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: R 15:30-17:30

Instructor: Dr Richard Zach
Office: SS1230
Office Phone: 403-220-3170
Email: rzach@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: TR 12:30-13:30

Teaching Assistant: Kimberly Brumble
Office: SS1215
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

An investigation of belief, knowledge, and error in everyday life and the sciences, including discussion of the nature of knowledge; patterns of valid reasoning and sources of error; the influence of bias on belief and knowledge; scientific reasoning and theory building; the distinction between science and pseudo-science.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Broad knowledge of philosophical issues surrounding knowledge;
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources;
- Ability to write a convincing assessment of knowledge claims that takes adequate account of the complexity of such claims;
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

Required/Recommended Texts (including electronic resources):

Links to readings and other materials required will be posted on D2L.

Course Requirements

This course will use anonymous grading procedures. All written work should be identified ONLY by your student number on a separate last page. (This applies both to work submitted electronically as well as hard copy.)

- 50% Homework/In class assignments (10 assignments X 5% each. There will be 12 assignments during the term, of which your 10 best scores will count. This means that you can miss 2 for any reason without it impacting your score. Some of these assignments will be started and/or finished in class, meaning that you must be present in class to complete them.)
- 5% Final project proposal (due on D2L Nov. 7 by 23:59, hard copies to be brought to class on Nov. 8)
- 10% Final project outline (due on D2L Nov. 26 by 23:59, hard copies to be brought to class on Nov. 27)
- 35% Final project (due on D2L Dec 10 by 23:59) 1250-1500 word case study looking at a contemporary issue using the ideas and tools covered in this class (e.g. Do claims about climate change involve certain forms of epistemic injustice? Do arguments about the lack of “proof” that vaccines are safe rely on a flawed understanding of proof?)

Letter Grade Conversion Table

A+	96 –100 %	B+	81-85 %	C+	66-70 %	D+	51-55 %
A	91-95 %	B	76-80 %	C	61-65%	D	46-50 %
A-	86-90 %	B-	71-75 %	C-	56-60 %	F	0- 45 %

Grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number (XX.49 and lower will be rounded down; XX.50 and higher will be rounded up).

- This course will use anonymous grading procedures. All written work should be identified ONLY by your student number on a separate last page. (This applies both to work submitted electronically and as a hard copy.)
- Students are responsible for checking D2L for updates on the course.
- No particular component must be passed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.
- Writing and the evaluation thereof is an important component of this course.
- There will **not** be a Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.
- Late assignments will lose 5% per day (or portion thereof) unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g. a sustained period of illness). They may also not receive comments in a timely manner.

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 (dgdick@ucalgary.ca), Jack MacIntosh (macintos@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@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). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. 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/>