PHIL 264 Lec 1
How Do We Know?
Fall 2021

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: C. Kenneth Waters
Email: ckwaters@ucalgary.ca. Include "Phil 264" in the subject heading of all email messages concerning this course. Messages will be returned within two class days (generally Monday – Friday).
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2 – 3 pm. These will be conducted via Zoom. Links to course-related Zoom meetings are posted in the Class Zoom Information document in the Content Folder of D2L.

Teaching Assistant Name: To be announced.
Email: To be announced. Include "Phil 264" in the subject heading of all email messages concerning this course. Messages will be returned within two class days (generally Monday – Friday).
Office Hours: To be announced. Links to course-related Zoom meetings are posted in the Class Zoom Information document in the Content Folder of D2L.

COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION
Lectures: Synchronous; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 pm
Tutorials: Synchronous; Tutorial Section 1: Fridays 9 – 10:00 am; Tutorial Section 2: Fridays 10 – 10:50 am; Tutorial Section 3: Fridays 1 – 1:50 pm; Tutorial Section 4: Fridays 2 – 2:50 pm.
These will be conducted via Zoom. Links to course-related Zoom meetings are posted in the Class Zoom Information document in the Content Folder of D2L.

COURSE COMMUNICATION
The instructor makes all important announcements including assignments via D2L. Students should sign up for instant notifications to their email or SMS to learn that a new communication has been posted (go to D2L, go to your profile, go to notification, check boxes for "News – item updated" and for "News – new item available").

COURSE INFORMATION
Living well depends on having accurate beliefs and making good choices. We often live our lives without thinking about how we should acquire our beliefs or how we should make decisions. Evidence from cognitive psychology shows that we often do so poorly, especially when the beliefs or decisions are very important to us. This course will help you learn how to acquire and evaluate beliefs and how you should make decisions. To put it in philosophical terminology, this course concerns how we should reason. It will draw upon the branch of philosophy called epistemology (theory of knowledge) as well as logic, cognitive psychology, statistics, and decision theory. It will cover informal reasoning in everyday life and more technical reasoning in the sciences.

PREREQUISITE(S)
There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Broad knowledge of philosophical ideas about how we should acquire beliefs and make decisions

- Appreciation of the nature and importance of having an open mindset
- Awareness of cognitive biases and kinds of social processes that impede our ability to acquire accurate beliefs and make rational decisions
- Knowledge of strategies for avoiding cognitive biases
- Knowledge of social processes that can help lead us to accurate beliefs and good decisions
- Ability to clarify claims
- Ability to evaluate and formulate reasons for accepting, rejecting, or withholding judgment about claims
- Ability to distinguish between correlation and causation
- Basic knowledge causal reasoning and scientific testing
- Rudimentary understanding of deductive logic and its limitations in practical situations; strategies for acquiring accurate beliefs in practical situations
- Rudimentary understanding of decision-theory and its limitations in practical situations; strategies for making good decisions in practical situations
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written discussion

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND SOFTWARE

Required Textbook: *Reason Better* by David Manley, TopHat Publishers.

This is a digital interactive textbook, and you will be required to complete questions embedded within the text.

- You will need a TopHat account to use the textbook. For instructions on how to create a Top Hat account and gain access to our text (or in the terminology of Top Hat: "to enroll in our Top Hat Pro course") please refer to the invitation sent to your school email address or consult Top Hat's Getting Started Guide (https://bit.ly/31TGMlw). If you already have a Top Hat account, go to https://app-ca.tophat.com/e/286626 to be taken directly to our course.
- The cost of the textbook is $30 and will be applied at checkout when enrolling in our Top Hat Pro course. Textbook material will be made available in our course throughout the semester, so do not worry if you do not see the contents of our text upon entry.
- You can also gain access to the textbook through the University bookstore at a slightly higher cost. Students whose textbooks are paid for by the University will need to obtain their access through the bookstore.
  Should you require assistance with Top Hat Pro at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.

It is important that you use your same name and email address with the same spelling, case, and accents every time you answer questions. Otherwise your grades from the exercises completed in the textbook will not sync with D2L.

Required Additional Readings: There will be several additional readings. Links or PDFs of these readings will be made available on the course D2L site.

Required Software: We will use the padlet program in lectures and tutorials. Links will be provided during class and tutorial.

- You should create a padlet account before the first class. Here are the steps:
  1. Go to https://padlet.com/
  2. Click "Sign up for free".
  3. Use your university email to sign up, and create a password.
  4. For example, your email would be *firstname.lastname@ucalgary.ca*
  a. Select the "Basic Plan" to start on. You do not need to pay for an account.
  5. Click "Let's Go".
  6. You will be redirected to your Padlet homepage. Please click on the small circular icon located in the top right-hand corner of the page.
  a. It will say "Account" if you hover the cursor over it.

7. Click on "Settings" and enter your real, full name in the bar that says "Name" and input your name.
    a. This will be located right above your email.
    b. Please use your full and real name.
8. After typing your name, scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Update". Your account is now set up.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading: Students are required to complete all readings assigned for the course. It is strongly recommended that students read each assigned reading at least twice. Reading assignments will be posted on D2L.

Weekly questions (each of 13 weeks): The interactive textbook includes questions which students are required to answer as they read each chapter. TopHat will record answers, and the results will automatically be sent to the instructors provided the student enters their same name and email address with the same spelling**,** case**,** accents every time they answer questions. Most weeks, the weekly questions are the ones embedded in the assigned chapter in the textbook. But some weeks, the weekly questions will be posted under Assessments -> Quizzes on D2L.

Participation: Class participation is an important part of this course. This will succeed only if everyone feels that they belong and are free to ask questions and participate in discussions and break out sessions. This will require the mindfulness of each of us. So please be respectful, positive, and constructive in your participation in the course. Participation include exercises that will be conducted during lectures and tutorials on padlet.com. These exercises can be completed only during class or tutorial. Exercises are not announced in advance.

Three tests: Tests will be used to assess students' understanding the material contained in the assigned readings (including material not covered in lectures or tutorials) and the material in lecture and tutorials (including material not covered in the assigned readings). Tests will be conducted via D2L.

Two exam essays: Topics will be assigned for each essay. The topics will be similar to topics that might be assigned on an in-class essay exam. The first essay should be about 700 words (750 word limit). The second essay should be about 800 words (850 word limit).

Meet and Greet with course professor: each student will meet for approximately 10 minutes (individually) with Ken Waters by zoom. All appointments will be set up through calendly.com Announcements of available appointments will be announced on D2L.

No Registrar scheduled final will be given.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Important Dates and Point Distribution

Assignment	Due date	Points
Weekly reading exercises*	By midnight every Wednesday	100 points total (10 points each; lowest 3 scores dropped)
Participation exercises*	As conducted in lectures and tutorials	96 points total (6 points each; at least lowest 3 scores dropped)
Test 1**	September 28, conducted during class period, due at end of class	150 points
Text 2**	November 18, conducted during class period, due at end of class	300 points
Test 3**	December 9, conducted during class period, due at end of class	150 points
Essay 1**	Due before class on October 5	50 points

Essay 2**	Due before class on November 23	100 points
Meet and Greet	Must be completed by November 18	54 points

Distribution and due dates of tests and essays may be adjusted due to unanticipated circumstances.
*Students receive three automatic excuses for not turning in weekly reading exercises and at least three automatic excuses for not completing participation exercises during the lectures and tutorials in which they are conducted. This policy is adopted in anticipation that there may be reasons students miss some weekly assignments. For example, a student may have an illness or a technical problem such as breakdown in internet connection. This policy means that if you have such a reason for missing a weekly assignment or participation exercise, you do need to provide it to the instructor. Your missing assignment will receive a zero, but this score will be automatically dropped unless you miss more than three weekly assignments. (If you miss more than three such assignments you can submit reasons for missing each of the weekly assignments you have missed. So, if you miss four, and provide legitimate excuses for missing four, then arrangement can be made to make up one of them.)
**Late tests and essays will not be accepted without an appropriate excuse. Students who cannot complete a test or essay on time for a legitimate reason must contact the instructor by email as soon as possible and *before* the due date if possible (ckwaters@ucalgary.ca, please include "Phil 264" in the subject heading of any email message concerning this course).

No registrar scheduled final will be given.

Final grades will be determined as follows:
990 to 1000 (99 – 100%)   = A+
900 to less than 960 (90 < 99%) = A
850 to less than 900 (85 < 90%) = A-
800 to less than 850 (80 < 85%) = B+
750 to less than 800 (75 < 80%) = B
700 to less than 750 (70 < 75%) = B-
650 to less than 700 (65 < 70%) = C+

600 to less than 640 (60 < 65%) = C
600 to less than 640 (60 < 65%) = C
550 to less than 600 (55 < 60%) = C-
500 to less than 540 (50 < 55%) = D+
450 to less than 490 (45 < 50%) = D
below 450 (< 45%) = F

You can calculate where you stand part way through the course by calculating in terms of the percentage of points you have accumulated. Simply add up the number of points you have accumulated thus far and divide it by the total number of possible points one could have received at that point in the course.

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION
The following information is MANDATORY. You may choose to include additional policies, to be reviewed by the Department Head during the approval process.
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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf.

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.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. 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.

Student Support and Resources
Full details and information about the following resources can be found at
ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services

- 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 https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy. Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director jfantl@ucalgary.ca) or David Dick (Honours Advisor dgdick@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Courtenay Canivet (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. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success.

Required Technology
In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:
- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L
Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it

for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Media Recording
Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy. 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 (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).