



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

## PHIL 305 Lec 01 – The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

Fall Term 2019

### Course Outline

**Lectures:** TR 9:30 - 10:45, EDC 386

**Instructor:** J. J. MacIntosh

**Email:** [macintos@ucalgary.ca](mailto:macintos@ucalgary.ca)

**Office:** SS 1249

**Office Hours:** 13:00 - 14:50 every Tuesday from September 10 to December 3  
(apart from reading week October 22 and November 12) OR by appointment

**Office Phone:** 403-220-3164

### *Course Description*

A study of the central philosophical views of the major philosophers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Most attention will be paid to the views of Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant, but other important philosophers of the period such as Bacon, Gassendi, Pascal, Boyle, Cudworth, Conway, and Newton, will also claim our attention. The major theme of the course will be the revival of classical scepticism in the renaissance, and the varying attempts of the philosophers discussed to deal with it. Besides the direct consideration of the scope and limits of human knowledge, investigation of this central theme will involve, among other things, looking at these philosophers' views on ontology (the kinds of things the universe contains), the nature of persons, and the existence of God.

### **Prerequisites:**

This course has no prerequisites.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

Many of the great philosophers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (often referred to as the early modern period) were 'natural philosophers'—what we would call scientists—as well as philosophers in our sense of the term. Reading them we come to see the way in which our standards of evidence, our standards for knowledge, and our developed notions of critical appraisal flowered. As well, we shall encounter a variety of metaphysical and ontological views: what, ultimately, is the world like, and what are its primary constituents?—questions which are with us still. Walking (metaphorically) hand in hand with the sharply critical Elisabeth of Bohemia when she reveals gaps in Descartes' thinking, or comparing the arguments for God's existence which Boyle, Newton, and Locke accepted, but which Hume and Kant firmly rejected, will let us test our own standards of belief acceptance in theology and metaphysics. The course will provide us with knowledge of an historical period which is of interest in itself, but will also provide us with an ability to think critically and clearly about questions which are difficult, abstract, and important.

### ***Required Texts***

We shall be reading selections from a wide number of philosophers. Almost all the philosophers we shall be reading are available in excellent modernized versions at [earlymoderntexts.com](http://earlymoderntexts.com), and those are the texts we shall be consulting. Suggested readings will be posted on D2L throughout the term.

Students are encouraged to read other original articles and books, and to consult the *Philosophers Index* (online, along with a number of other data bases via the University Library) frequently.

Students consulting material on the net are reminded that refereed sources are more likely to contain rigorous, scholarly material than unrefereed sources (there's a lot of rubbish on the net). All major philosophical journals are refereed, and many are available on-line via our library. Also available online is the (recommended) Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<http://plato.stanford.edu/>). Feel free to check out also EEBO, Past Masters, and Eighteenth Century Books through our Library for original versions of our authors' texts.

### ***Evaluation***

Marks will be based on three tests and eight assignments.

1. **Tests:** There are two in-class tests and one registrar scheduled final test. The in-class tests will be on October 3 and November 7. Each test is worth 30% of the final mark. Students may bring into the tests a single sheet of standard letter sized paper (approx. 21.5 x 28 cm). You may put on the paper anything you like (notes, quotations, etc.) No other notes or books may be consulted. On your tests please write as legibly as time allows. Please do not use a pencil. If you write something you subsequently wish not to have read, simply cross it out. There are no extra marks for neatness. After each in-class test, unless the test mark was an F, students may submit an optional term paper (deadline, firm: two weeks after return in class of the test; maximum length 2000 words). The optional term paper may be on one of the test questions, or you may suggest a topic covered in the relevant part of the course, subject to acceptance by the Instructor. For the optional paper, if chosen, emailed submissions are strongly preferred. Please attach your paper to an ordinary email. The optional paper mark will, if higher, replace the mark of the test for the purpose of calculating the final mark. No optional paper for the final **registrar scheduled test**. For each test you will be given a choice of questions, and will be asked to answer two questions. A sample test will be posted a week before the in-class tests, and in the last week of term for the final test. In each case the actual test will have the same format as the sample test.
2. **Assignments:** The eight assignments are designed to ensure that you are keeping up with the reading, and are intended to test awareness of our texts. Each assignment will require a short, one paragraph (two to three sentences), answer to a straightforward question about a text with which we are currently working or about to work. Each assignment will be on a pass fail basis. A pass on all eight of the assignments will be worth 10% of the final mark; on seven, 8%, on six, 6%. If your first attempt is a fail, you may have **one** second attempt, due two days after email notification of the fail mark. No third attempts. Electronic submissions, as part of, or as an attachment to, an ordinary email, are strongly preferred. **Passing a minimum of six of these assignments is required for a pass in the course as a whole.** The assignments, posted one week before the due date, are due by 11.59 p.m. of the due dates. These are: A1, September 20; A2, September 27; A3, October 11; A4, October 18, A5, October 25; A6, November 1; A7, November 22; A8, November 29. Assignment topics and suggested readings will be available on D2L.

### ***Grading Method***

Your tests will be graded on the standard university scale which ranges from A+ to F. Your mark may sometimes have a slash (/) in it, thus: B/B+. In such cases the first mark is the official mark, the second shows which end of the mark you are closer to. An A-/B+ is an A- at the lower end; an A-/A is an A- at the upper end. Letter grade marks will be averaged by using GPA numerical equivalents. The assignment marks, worth 16% of the final mark, will be assigned a cumulative letter grade based on the following equivalences: 16: A+, 14: A, 12: A-; 0 - 10: F. Notice that an F as the total assignment grade will produce an F in the course.

### ***A Note on Spelling and Grammar***

In an optional term paper for the in-class tests, if chosen, more than five grammatical or spelling mistakes on any one page will lead to it being returned for corrections before a mark is assigned. Corrections are due within two days of the return. Two examples of the same mistake count as two mistakes. Standard U. S. spellings (e.g., 'neighbor' for 'neighbour,' 'defense' for 'defence,' 'center' for 'centre,' etc.) are acceptable. Common mistakes in philosophy papers include: (1) misspellings of 'existence,' 'conceive,' 'argument,' and 'separate'; (2) the misuse of 'i.e.' for 'e.g.'; (3) the misuse of 'phenomena' and 'criteria' as singulars. They are plurals. The singulars are 'phenomenon' and 'criterion.' Finally there is (4) the increasingly common use of 'it's' as a possessive. Perhaps this almost ubiquitous error will become standard, but it has not become so yet, and just as we do not speak of "he's book," or "she's pen" so we should not refer to "it's colour." Of course you should avoid sexist language. In particular, remember that 'man' and 'he' are not gender neutral, and that 'girl' is not an appropriate term for adult women. (No doubt these remarks will have little practical relevance for *this* class; I put them in mainly to ensure that they remain unnecessary). To answer a FAQ in advance: when quoting an early modern author, should I keep the sexist language, if any? — Answer: Yes. Quote accurately.

### ***Policy on Late Assignments***

As mentioned above, electronic submissions are preferred for assignments and optional papers. If a hard copy submission is easier for you, there will be a drop box available in the Philosophy Department (12th floor Social Sciences Tower, in the hall on the left side as you enter the department). Notice that this drop box will be cleared at 4:00 pm on the day your assignment, etc. is due. The deadlines for assignments and optional papers are firm: no late submissions accepted.

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### **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://phil.ucalgary.ca). Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).