



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 315 Lec 01 – “Philosophy in Literature”
Winter Term 2012**

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 9:00-9:50 in MLT 118

Instructor: Jóhannes Dagsson

Email: jdagsson@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00-12:00 or by appointment

Office: SS1215

Phone: 403-220-6524

Two Notes about Using Email:

- (1) Students wishing to get in touch with me via email should ensure that “PHIL 315” or some other clearly identifying term occurs in the subject line. Otherwise there is a strong possibility that your message will be deleted unread as spam.
- (2) Should you change your email address during the term, please update this information online at your Student Centre as soon as possible. If you do not, and an email message is sent to the class, it will fail to reach you.

Course Description

In the first part of the course we will look at questions about the status and identity of “the author”. We will read relevant philosophical material along with works of literature that play on, or bring to light, different aspects of the author concept. In the latter part of the course we will look at questions of personal identity in a more general way, concentrating on a constitutional account of personal identity and the role memory and narrative can play in analyzing questions of personal identity.

Required Texts

- Course pack (sold in the University Bookstore)
- Jorge Luis Borges, *Labyrinths*
- Italo Calvino, *If On a Winters Night a Traveler*
- Haruki Murakami, *The Elephant Vanishes*
- Paul Auster, *The Invention of Solitude*

Evaluation

Marks will be based on three papers:

- The first paper is due on Friday, February 10. It is worth 20% of the final grade. You will be given a paper topic by January 20. Expected length is 3 pages.
- The second paper is due on the Friday, March 16. It is worth 30% of the final grade. You will be given a paper topic by February 10. Expected length is 4 pages.
- The third paper is due on the Friday, April 13 (the last day of classes). It is worth 50% of the final grade. Topic to be chosen by you but subject to approval by the instructor. Expected length is 5-7 pages.

There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

We are asked by the University to “Indicate when writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of the student’s work. (See [E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum](#) statement.)” Writing and the grading thereof is indeed a factor in the evaluation of your work. Your writing should be clear, coherent, and to the point. Your arguments should be plainly set out. Notice that footnotes of the incomplete and unhelpful sort offered in "E.2 Writing across the Curriculum" (at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>) will be clear evidence of insufficient scholarly acumen or ability.

Grading Method

The papers will be graded individually. A is an excellent paper, A- a bit less excellent paper and so on. The combined grades for the papers (averaged according to the GPA values of the letter grades) will then make up the final grade in the course.

A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.70	
B+	3.30	
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.70	
C+	2.30	
C	2.00	Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter.
C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0	Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Policy on Late Assignments

No late submissions accepted on any work to be handed in save in exceptional circumstances. Procrastination, apathy, sloth, laziness, writer's block, pressure of other work, and most personal problems do not constitute exceptional circumstances: they are simply part of the human condition.

The following notes are provided by the University:

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal 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.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments, papers, and exams be returned to the student directly from the instructor unless other arrangements have been made in writing and approved by the Department Administrator.