PHIL 325 Lec 01
Law and Morality
Summer 2022
Monday/Wednesday, 9-11:45am, MS 319

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Dr. Jennifer Warriner
Email: jennifer.warriner@ucalgary.ca (You can expect a response from me in 24-48 hours.)
Office: TBA
Office Hours: By appointment only. Send me an email and we will set something up.
Office Phone: 403-220-5886 (This is the philosophy office number.)

COURSE INFORMATION
Paternalism occurs when a person or a government prevents someone from acting autonomously, without his or her consent, on the grounds that doing so is in that person’s best interest. For example, laws requiring motorists to wear seatbelts and for drivers to refrain from texting while driving are said to be paternalistic laws. Yet, such laws seem to be justifiable restrictions people’s autonomy for their own good. In this class, we will consider whether people have an obligation to obey laws in the first place. Then, we consider the concept of paternalism and in what sense a law can be paternalistic. We will consider several different kinds of so-called paternalistic laws – e.g., related to public health measures, sex work, and drug laws, among others – and attempt to understand what, if anything, is particularly objectionable about these laws. Can the law justifiably interfere with someone’s autonomy? If so, on what grounds?

PREREQUISITE(S)
None

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
• Identify key ethical concepts, e.g., paternalism, autonomy, etc.
• Comprehend the complexity of ethical reasoning about paternalism.
• Critically digest, interpret, and analyze philosophical arguments.
• Write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions.
• Engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS
All readings will be posted on D2L. There is no textbook.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION
Two in-class exams, the first worth 25%, the second worth 30%:
• First exam is scheduled for Monday, July 11th
• Second exam is scheduled for Monday, July 25th
• Both exams will be closed book, with short- and longer-answer written response questions.
One take-home final exam, worth 35%:

- The final exam will be cumulative. It will be an open book, take-home exam.
- Because this is a take-home exam, the quality of the writing will factor into the overall grade.
- The exam will be posted on D2L on Monday August 15th and will be due by Wednesday, August 17th.

Participation, worth 10%

- Participation involves active, informed, and consistent contributions to class discussion over the course of the semester. Please note that “class discussion” includes asking questions or making a critical point during lecture; posting a discussion question on the D2L discussion board; sending me an email with a question or critical point about course content.

There is no registrar-scheduled final exam.

A passing grade on any particular component is not necessary to pass the course as a whole.

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

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).

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).