



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

**PHIL 347 Lec 01**  
**“Contemporary Moral Problems”**  
**Fall Term 2019**

**Course Outline**  
**Lectures: ONLINE**

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Office Hours: 2:00 - 3:00 R, and by appointment (in-person or by Skype)

**Course Description**

In this course, we will review and evaluate debates around contemporary moral issues. Topics include: genetic enhancement, pornography, performance-enhancing drugs, world poverty, grown children’s obligations to parents, and others.

**Important Note**

This course is entirely online, with the exception of the midterm and final, both of which must be taken on campus on the date scheduled. The tentative time and date for the midterm is Saturday, Oct. 19, from 3-5 p.m. The final exam will be registrar-scheduled.

**Prerequisites:**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Knowledge of debates and arguments on contemporary moral issues  
Ability to accurately and charitably extract arguments from authors’ work  
Ability to evaluate arguments of other authors fairly  
Ability to construct convincing arguments in support of theses.  
Ability to communicate ideas and arguments orally and/or in writing (online) with other students, and respond to other students in a respectful, productive way.

**Required/Recommended Texts:**

1. Cahn, Steven M. and Forcehimes, Andrew T. 2017. *Exploring Moral Problems* (Oxford: OUP). Available at Bookstore
2. Journal Articles posted to D2L.

**Course Assessment**

Students will be graded on two in-class exams.

First Exam (Sat., October 19 [tentative date]):	50 points
Non-Cumulative Final Exam (Registrar Scheduled):	50 points

\*\*\* In order to make exam expectations as clear as possible, all possible essay questions will be posted to D2L two weeks before the midterm and two weeks before the final. I will also post a sample exam (with only one question) on Oct. 7. The sample exam will be due Oct. 9. I will grade these essays just as I would on the midterm, and return them by Oct. 12. The marks on these sample exams will not count toward your final grade, but they will help you assess your level of preparation before the midterm. \*\*\*

### **Grading Method**

Grades will be calculated as follows:

96-100 = A+	80-84.9 = B+	65-69.9 = C+	53-54.9 = D+
90-95.9 = A	75-79.9 = B	60-64.9 = C	50-52.9 = D
85-89.9 = A-	70-74.9 = B-	55-59.9 = C-	< 50 = F

### **Course Policies:**

Exams must be taken on the day they are scheduled.

I will mark all assignments without knowledge of the author's identity (so long as authors prepare exams for blind review as instructed, and take exams on the assigned date).

There will be a Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.

A student need not receive a passing mark on every assignment in order to pass the course.

### **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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).