Course Outline

PHIL 347 Lec 01
Contemporary Moral Problems
Winter 2020 (Block-Week)

Lectures: MoTuWeThFr 9:00AM - 4:30PM
Location: MS 211

Instructor: Reid Buchanan
Office: SS1220
Phone: 220-3168
E-mail: buchanar@ucalgary.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will examine a number of controversial topics including the ethical status of abortion, euthanasia and physician assisted suicide, our moral obligations to the environment and freedom of expression.

PREREQUISITES
There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
The general aims of the course are to have students acquire the ability to distinguish and appreciate several current ethical issues, the ability to identify philosophical reasoning, particularly to recognize, extract, and evaluate arguments, and finally, the ability to research and write philosophical exams and essays that have plausible theses and reasonable supporting arguments.

REQUIRED TEXT

COURSE ASSESSMENT
The course work will consist of two in-class exams, and a term paper (4-6 pages). Thus, writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.
A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not essential to pass the course as a whole.

The weight for each requirement is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>% of Course Grade</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>January 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>January 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>January 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>January 24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letter grades will be assigned in accordance with the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-45</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>71-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>46-50</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>76-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>51-55</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>81-85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>56-60</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>86-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>61-65</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>91-95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>66-70</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>96-100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance**

Attendance is not mandatory, but I do expect you to make every effort to be present at each session. Excepting extraordinary circumstances, I expect advance notice that you will be unable to attend class for an exam or to submit an assignment by the due date.

**How to Contact Me**

The best way to reach me is through E-mail, which I typically check a number of times each day. I should also mention that I encourage you to offer me feedback about any aspect of the course — it is important for me to know how you think things are going, and to be flexible enough to adjust to your needs.

**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/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](ucalgary.ca/policies/files/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/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf](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](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](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 [dgdiick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdiick@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](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](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 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) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).