



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 361 Lec 1 – “Evidence”

Fall Term 2013

### Course Outline

**Lectures: MWF 9:00-9:50 in Science A 247**

**Instructor:** Ryan Hebert

**Office:** Social Science 1239

**Phone:** +1 (403) 220-6465

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**Office Hours:** Mondays 10:15-11:15 AM or by appointment

### **Course Description**

We very rarely have decisive evidence for truth. Yet we nonetheless form beliefs about what is true and act on what we believe to be most likely true. When is it legitimate to take a stand, either in belief or in action? How much evidence should we require before we trust others or ourselves – before we act in ways which, if we’re wrong, could cause more harm than good? How is evidence interpreted correctly? We will be looking at philosophical discussions of these themes as well as examining how they apply to real world issues and what consequences they have in contemporary society.

### **Required Texts**

- Journal articles accessible through the university library website.

### **Evaluation**

There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

- **Group Work (25%):** Participation in various group activities and a long (50 minute) group presentation. *Presentation Completed by: Dec 6.*
- **5 Reading Analyses (50%):** Short (maximum 1 page) paper that: (1) presents the main argument of that day’s reading, and (2) constructs a single plausible objection. Your lowest reading analysis grade is dropped. *Due: Oct 4, Oct 18, Nov 1, Nov 15, Nov 29.*
- **Final Paper (25%):** 1,000-2,000 word (250 words/page) expository essay. *Due: Dec 6.*

## Grading Method

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. Final grades are computed according to the following schema:

96.7 < = A+	86.7-89.9 = B+	76.7-79.9 = C+	66.7-69.9 = D+
93.4-96.6 = A	83.4-86.6 = B	73.4-76.6 = C	60.0-66.6 = D
90.0-93.3 = A-	80.0-83.3 = B-	70.0-73.3 = C-	< 60.0 = F

## Policy on Late Assignments

Assignments are officially due the moment class is scheduled to begin. Electronically delivered assignments are not accepted without prior approval. Late assignments are not accepted and receive a zero. No extensions will be granted except in cases of emergency.

## Policy on Extra Credit

You may earn a bonus 1% toward your final grade for each assignment you submit earlier than its deadline or due date, up to a maximum of 5%. No other extra credit opportunities are available.

## Policy on Contested Marking

If you are dissatisfied with a mark that you have received on an assignment, you have two weeks from the day the assignment is handed back in-class to contest it. To contest a mark, you must submit a concise, sound argument in writing explaining what your mark should be and why. After the two week window has passed, your mark cannot be contested. Failure to comply with the prescribed protocol results in the forfeiture of the right to contest your mark.

### Academic Honesty

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, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. 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 correct referencing, consult your instructor.

### Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for 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. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

### Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

### Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns – Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email

[artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.

- **Program Planning** – For assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit it on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

#### **Protection of Privacy**

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

#### **Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives**

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

#### **Safewalk**

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

#### **PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT**

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### **PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2013:**

Chris Framarin [chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca)

Lorraine Markotic [lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca)

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) [migotti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:migotti@ucalgary.ca)

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca))