



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 361 Lec 01  
MW 15:30-16:45 SA 017  
Evidence  
Fall Term 2017

### Course Outline

**Instructor:** Dr. Megan Delehanty  
**Office:** SS 1240  
**Office Phone:** (403) 220-2828  
**Email:** mdelehan@ucalgary.ca  
**Office Hours:** Mondays 2:00-3:00 and 5:00-6:00 (for the later time, the department doors will be locked, so if you don't follow me up after class, you will need to call me and I'll open the door)

#### **Course Description**

This course will be an investigation of the nature and role of evidence both in science and in everyday life. Some of the questions we will consider are: What is evidence? Is evidence the same thing as information or data? Is it objective? What is the role of evidence in science/medicine/policy?

**Prerequisites:** None

#### **Course Learning Outcomes**

1. Describe the position argued for by a particular author or set of authors regarding the nature and role of evidence.
2. Compare different positions on the nature and role of evidence.
3. Discuss and critically evaluate existing literature on the nature and role of evidence.
4. Develop a case study of the nature of role played by evidence in the context of a specific problem.

#### **Required/Recommended Texts (including electronic resources):**

All readings will be posted on D2L.

#### **Course Assessment**

This course will use anonymous grading procedures. All written work should be identified ONLY by your student number on a separate last page. (This applies both to work submitted electronically and as a hard copy.)

#### **Course Requirements**

- Midterm Exam #1 (30%) **Wednesday, Oct. 11**
- Midterm Exam #2 (30%) **Wednesday, Nov. 15**
- Draft of case study (5%). Due **Monday, December 4** in class
- Peer review of case study (in class on **Dec. 4 and Dec. 6**) (5%)
- Final case study (30%) (2000 words max). Due **Monday Dec. 11** by 23:59 in the D2L dropbox
- Students are responsible for checking D2L for updates on the course.
- No particular component must be passed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.
- Writing and the evaluation thereof is an important component of this course.
- There will **not** be a Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.

- Late assignments will lose 5% per day (or portion thereof) unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g. a sustained period of illness). They may also not receive comments in a timely manner.
- All written assignments are to be submitted to the D2L dropbox.

### Letter Grade Conversion Table

A+	95 –100 %	B+	80-84.9 %	C+	65-69.9 %	D+	50-54.9 %
A	90-94.9 %	B	75-79.9 %	C	60-64.9 %	D	45-49.9 %
A-	85-89.9 %	B-	70-74.9 %	C-	55-59.9 %	F	0- 44.9 %

## IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

### Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, 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

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/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

### D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

### General Academic Concerns and Program Planning

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns

### 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 Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl ([jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)), Allen Habib ([anhabib@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anhabib@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehanty ([mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mdelehan@ucalgary.ca)).

### 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 Department Manager, Tram Nguyen ([tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca)). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

## **Writing**

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc).

## **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 or teaching assistant.

## **Internet and Electronic Communication Devices**

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging 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

## **Emergency Evacuation:**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

## **Other Helpful Contacts**

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>