



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Phil 361 Lec 60 – “Evidence”
Summer Term 2013
Course Outline

Instructor: Greg Janzen

Office: SS1206 (office hour: M 15:00-1600)

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Lectures: TR 12:00-14:45 (MS 211)

Course Description

One of the primary concerns of traditional epistemology is whether our beliefs can be justified (and, correlatively, whether we can be said to know, on the basis of justifiably believing, that such-and-such is the case). It is typically supposed that a belief can be justified only if there is sufficient *evidence* for it, but it is difficult to determine what constitutes sufficient evidence. Some philosophers hold that it consists in a belief's being part of a set of beliefs that properly evidentially *cohere* with one another, while others hold that it consists in a belief's being part of a set of beliefs containing at least one evidentiary *foundational* or *self-evident* belief. Still others – sceptics – maintain that our beliefs lack any evidential support, such that it's impossible to know whether our beliefs (and hence claims to knowledge) are true. The purpose of this course is to provide exposure to this problem with an eye toward developing the skills both to understand and critically analyse it.

Required Texts

I will supply a list of articles, each of which is available in an e-journal to which the University of Calgary library subscribes or will be posted on Blackboard.

Evaluation

The final grade will be determined by a midterm in-class exam worth 30% (**given Tuesday, July 23**), a term paper (5-6 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font) worth 30% (**due Thursday, August 8**), and a take home final exam worth 40% (**due Friday, August 16**). Accordingly, writing and the grading thereof will be a factor in evaluation. Writing should be clear, coherent, and succinct. There is no registrar-scheduled final exam and there is no particular assignment that you have to pass to pass the course.

Policy on late assignments: Late assignments will not be accepted unless a university recognized ground for delay (e.g., illness) is provided. Note: a busy schedule, vacation, etc. are not university recognized grounds for delay. So, for example, if you are going on holiday this summer and, for that reason, will be unable to submit an assignment on time, you will receive a grade of zero on that assignment.

Submitting assignments: The essay is to be submitted in class or in the Phil 361 Lec 60 assignment drop slot, which can be found in the Philosophy Department (SS 12th floor). The final exam is to be submitted in the assignment drop slot. For an assignment to be considered on time, I have to receive a *hard copy* by 4pm on the day it is due. *Assignments will not be accepted via email (or otherwise electronically), or under my office door, under any circumstances.*

The following conversion table will be used to calculate final letter grades:

< 50% F	60-63 C-	70-74 B-	86-91 A-
50-54 D	64-66 C	75-79 B	92-96 A
55-59 D+	67-69 C+	80-85 B+	97-100 A+

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 documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact the DRC Office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal 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.

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. 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 3rd 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, contact 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. See www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information. The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at 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 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR SUMMER 2013:

Chris Framarin chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

Lorraine Markotic lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca

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For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact

Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)