COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Marc Ereshefsky  
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Office: SS 1204  
Office Hours: Thursday 2:00-3:30 and by appointment  
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COURSE INFORMATION
We will discuss four important questions in the philosophy of science. What makes a theory a scientific theory? What is scientific objectivity? What does science tell us about human nature? Are scientific theories true?

PREREQUISITE(S)
There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Knowledge of various philosophical perspectives on the nature of science.
- Ability to critically interpret and analyze complex philosophical sources.
- Ability to engage in constructive oral and written argumentation.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

TOPICS AND READINGS
What is Science?
1. "Science: Conjectures and Refutations" – Popper (in Curd and Cover)
2. “Why Astrology is a Pseudoscience” – Thagard (in Curd and Cover)

What is Scientific Objectivity?
2. “Values and Objectivity” – Longino (in Curd and Cover)
3. “Gender and the Biological Sciences” – Okruhlik (in Curd and Cover)

Science and Human Nature
Are Scientific Theories True?
1. “The Ontological Status of Theoretical Entities” – Maxwell (in Curd and Cover)
2. “Arguments Concerning Scientific Realism” – van Fraassen (in Curd and Cover)
3. “Experimentation and Scientific Realism” – Hacking (in Curd and Cover)

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Written Preparations
• Five written preparations are required. Each preparation should contain a one-sentence question from a reading we are discussing in class. In a different paragraph, provide six to eight sentences explaining why you are raising the question and context of the question.
• Samples of written preparations can be found on D2L.
• The question may be remedial, seeking an account of an important claim or argument in the reading that you could not follow. Or the question could be more critical in nature, alluding to a weakness in the paper. Or the question could be probing, identifying an issue that is raised by the reading or a possible implication of the reading.
• Each written preparation must be handed in before we start discussing an article. Please hand in a hard copy of the preparation at the beginning of class when we start a reading. No preparations will be accepted after we start discussing an article.
• Your written preparation should be printed (not hand written) and double-spaced.
• We may only read eight articles in the class. So you should start writing and submitting your discussion preparations right away.
• You can hand in more than five written preparations. For each additional preparation beyond five, your lowest grade for a preparation will be replaced with a higher additional preparation grade.

Tests
• There will be two in-class tests and NO Registrar-scheduled final exam.
• Test questions will be drawn from our readings and class discussion.

Term Paper
• A term paper will be due at the end of the semester. A set of topics for the term paper will be assigned. Topics will be distributed at least two weeks before the paper is due. The term paper should be no longer than 2000 words (approximately 6 double spaced pages.) Detailed instructions for the paper will be distributed later in the term.

Due Dates, Assignment Values, and Grade Scale
No late assignments will be accepted without an appropriate excuse.

Written Preparations: 5 X 3 points each. See above for when these assignments are due.
Test #1 25 points  February 11
Test #2 30 points  March 19
Term Paper 30 points  April 16

Final grades will be awarded as follows.
96-100 = A+  80-83 = B  68-69 = C-
90-95 = A  78-79 = B-  64-67 = D+
88-89 = A-  74-77 = C+  60-63 = D
84-87 = B+  70-73 = C  below 60 = F
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.

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. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill 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

Student Support and Resources
Full details and information about the following resources can be found at 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 for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator 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.
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 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.

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

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. 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).