



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 399 Lec 1
Topics in Philosophy (Uncertainty & Climate Change)

Spring 2020
Asynchronously assigned weekly, online

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Kimberly Brumble
Email: kimberly.brumble1@ucalgary.ca
Office: Phil N/A
Office Hours: Mondays 2-4pm held via scheduled zoom meetings and email
Office Phone: N/A

Teaching Assistant Name: Alican Basdemir
Email: alican.basdemir@ucalgary.ca
Office: N/A
Office Hours: TBD
Office Phone: N/A

COURSE INFORMATION

This course will explore the topic of uncertainty in climate change, broadly, and how it impacts the reception of climate science and climate informed policy. Topics will include uncertainty in science, uncertainty in epistemology, uncertainty and aesthetics, uncertainty and horror, uncertainty in statistics, uncertainty and values in science, and decision-making under uncertainty.

PREREQUISITE(S)

None.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Exploration of certainty and uncertainty across a survey of philosophical domains
- Deep knowledge of uncertainty as it pertains to science
- Familiarity with how climate science generates knowledge of the earth's climate
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

REQUIRED READINGS AND MATERIALS

Mann, Michael E., and Lee R. Kump. "Dire predictions." Understanding global warming. The illustrated guide to the findings of the IPCC. DK London, NY (2008). *Out of print, used copies and e-book version available via the UCalgary Bookstore.

Thacker, Eugene. In the dust of this planet: Horror of philosophy. Vol. 1. John Hunt Publishing, 2011.

All other readings will be posted to the course D2L weekly.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Course Grade Breakdown:

95 – 100 = A
83 – 86.9 = B
73 – 76.9 = C
63 – 66.9 = D
90 – 94.9 = A-
80 – 82.9 = B-
70 – 72.9 = C-
60 – 62.9 = D-
87 – 89.9 = B+
77 – 79.9 = C+
67 – 69.9 = D+
< 60 = F

Assignments:

Weekly Discussion Posts (1 per reading): 12.5%
Weekly Discussion responses (2 per reading) 12.5%

Exam 1 (multiple choice, offered online through D2L): 25% (exams may be corrected for partial credit) (Week 3 of class). The exam will be available on D2L for 24 hours to complete.

Exam 2 (multiple choice, offered online through D2L): 25% (exams may be corrected for partial credit) (Week 5 of class). The exam will be available on D2L for 24 hours to complete.

Study Guide for one reading and discussion questions (2-3 pages, submitted by Sunday at midnight before the reading is discussed): 25%

All coursework must be submit through dropbox on D2L by midnight of the date assignments are due, except discussion posts which should happen throughout the week and are due by midnight on Sunday.

****Please screenshot the D2L submitted field or sent email when submitting work electronically in case of systems issues.**

Exams

Exams are open book, open note, but must be completed individually by students when they are assigned. Exams are offered over D2L.

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 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

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).