



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

**PHIL 408 Lec 01**  
**Philosophy of Giorgio Agamben**  
**Winter Term 2020**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures (available on line) MWF 11:00**

**Instructor:** Brendan Moran

**Office:** Soc. Sci. 1208

**Email:** [bmoran@ucalgary.ca](mailto:bmoran@ucalgary.ca)

**No office hours after March 11:** students can pose questions (pertinent to the course) by email; the questions will be answered promptly and no later than within 48 hours.

**Course Description**

This course will examine three works by Giorgio Agamben with regard to themes such as life and political-legal power, time and law, life and ontology. **As of the termination of in-person classes, the lectures for each class will be posted on D2L by no later than the scheduled day of the class. There will be no lecture notes posted for the holidays on April 10 and 13.**

**Prerequisites:**

One of Philosophy 309, 311, 333, 359 or Religious Studies 363 and an additional 3 units (0.5 full-course equivalent) in Philosophy.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

We will carefully read, discuss, and analyze the assigned readings. Students will be expected to interpret and to comprehend quite difficult philosophical texts. Students will be trained to encounter ideas, and analyze writings, that are from non-Anglo-American cultural settings and are translated from Italian into English. Students will also be trained to recognize ways in which Agamben's philosophy articulates concerns that are relevant for contemporary debates.

Students will be expected to write clearly, concisely, and coherently. They will further develop their competence in the public presentation of written ideas; this will include clear and complete referencing practices.

Students will be expected to contribute clearly and effectively to class discussions.

**Required Texts: It is essential that students use the translations and the editions listed below. Failure to do so will automatically result in an F (=0) for the paper.**

1. Giorgio Agamben, *Homo Sacer. Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998. **ISBN-13:** 978-0804732185.
2. Giorgio Agamben, *The Time that Remains. A Commentary on the Letter to the Romans*. Trans. Patricia Dailey. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005. Paperback: **ISBN-13:** 978-0804743839.
3. Giorgio Agamben, *The Use of Bodies*. Trans. Adam Kotsko. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2016. Paperback: **ISBN-13:** 978-0804798402.

## Course Assessment

- **First essay: 1200 words** (give or take 100), worth **30%** of final grade, due at the beginning of class on **Mon. Feb. 10**
- **Second essay: 1000 words** (give or take 50), worth **20%** of final grade, due at the beginning of class on **Mon. March 9** or, if the physical copy was not received, the essay may be sent to instructor by email. The assignment was posted on D2L.
- **Third essay: 1500 words** (give or take 100), worth **40%** of final grade, due by **Friday, April 17**, and to be sent to the instructor by email. The assignment is posted on D2L.
- **Class Participation:** Worth **10%** of final grade. (This grade will be based on the extent of active involvement in the classes and on the contributions to class discussions up to March 11.)
- There will be **NO** Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination.
- **\*\*Please screenshot the sent email when submitting work electronically in case of systems issues.**

Letter grades will be given. Those grades will be based on the following numerical system.

A+ = 90-100%  
A = 85-89 %  
A- = 80-84 %  
B+ = 77-79 %  
B = 74-76 %  
B- = 70-73 %  
C+ = 67-69 %  
C = 64-66 %  
C- = 60-63 %  
D+ = 55-59 %  
D = 50-54 %  
F = 0-49 %

If the final grade is fractional, it will be rounded off to the higher full number only if it is .5 or higher (e.g. 69.5 would become 70, 69.49 would not).

Writing and the grading thereof is a very significant factor in the evaluation of your work. For further explanation, see the University Calendar: <http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

**Late papers** will receive a grade reduction (A to A-, A- to B+, and so on) unless an extension has been negotiated before the deadline. A paper submitted after an extended deadline will be subject to the same policy of grade reduction. **No papers will be accepted after the final grades have been submitted to the Department and the Registrar.** After March 9, papers may **only** be submitted by email to the instructor.

**Computers will be provisionally allowed in the classroom. If a student is using a computer for purposes other than class work, this policy will be renege and thereafter no computers will be allowed for any student during class. Cellphones will not be used during the class. If a student uses a cellphone (for any purpose) during the class, the student will be asked to leave the classroom.**

## **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://phil.ucalgary.ca). Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).