



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 423 Lec 01 – “Metaphysics”

Winter Term 2013

Course Outline

Lectures: TuTh 2.00-3.15 in SS 541

Instructor: Noa Latham

Office: SS 1250

Phone: 220-5528

Email: latham@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: TuTh 12.30-1.30 and by appt.

Course Description

We will be examining what categories of existence we need to characterize the world. We'll look into the question of whether there are fundamental features of the world upon which all the remaining features depend. And we'll be looking into what role laws play in the way the world works.

Required Texts

- David Armstrong, *Universals: An Opinionated Introduction* (available at Bookstore)
- Package of Supplementary Readings (available at Bound and Copied)

Course Requirements

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>.

- A take-home midterm exam due Monday, Feb 11 worth 15%
- First Paper (1800-2400 words; 6-8 pages) due Friday, Mar 8 worth 30%
- Second paper (1800-2400 words; 6-8 pages) due Friday, April 12 worth 30%
- A take-home final exam due Monday, April 22 worth 25%

There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Cumulative and final grades will be computed by Gradebook on the Blackboard site using the following scale:

A+	98-100	B+	86-89	C+	74-77	D+	62-65
A	94-97	B	82-85	C	70-73	D	58-61
A-	90-93	B-	78-81	C-	66-69	F	0-57

You are not required to complete all assignments to pass the course, but the grade for a missing assignment is 0. Class participation and improvement over the semester can boost your grade by as much as one grade step (e.g. from B to B+). I shall be using Blackboard to post assignments and grades, to confirm what we are reading for the next lecture, and to provide some questions on those readings.

Late Policy

Late assignments will be marked down by one grade step for each day of lateness. (The time between Fri and Mon counts as one day.) If you are anticipating any difficulty in completing your assignment on time you should discuss the problem with me before the due date. If you have completed your assignment but are having difficulty turning in a hard copy on time you should email the completed assignment to me on time and drop off a hard copy the following day.

Electronic Devices

Those wishing to use a computer to take notes are requested to sit in the back row of the class. Cell phones should be switched off for the duration of the class.

Tentative Schedule

Jan 8	Introduction	
Jan 10	Nominalism	Armstrong Chapter 1
Jan 15, 17		Armstrong Chapter 2
Jan 22, 24		Armstrong Chapter 3
Jan 29, 31	Bundle Theory	Armstrong Chapter 4
Feb 5	Universals	Plato <i>Republic</i> excerpts from books VI and X
Feb 7, 12		Armstrong Chapter 5
Feb 14	Tropes	Armstrong Chapter 6
Feb 19, 21	Reading Week – No Classes	
Feb 26		D.C. Williams “The Elements of Being”
Feb 28		Keith Campbell “The Metaphysic of Abstract Particulars”
Mar 5		Armstrong Chapter 7
Mar 7	Objects and Events	Donald Davidson “The Individuation of Events”
Mar 12		Jonathan Bennett “Introduction to Events”
Mar 14		Noa Latham “Spatial and Spatiotemporal Particulars”
Mar 19		Peter van Inwagen “Doctrine of Arbitrary Undetached Parts”
Mar 21	Laws and Dispositions	David Lewis Introduction to <i>Collected Papers Vol 2</i>
Mar 26		Barry Loewer “Humean Supervenience”
Mar 28, Apr 2		Alexander Bird “A Dispositionalist Conception of Laws”
Apr 4		Bigelow, Ellis and Lierse “The World as One of a Kind”
Apr 9		Tim Maudlin “The Whole Ball of Wax”
Apr 11		

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

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 their office at 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.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are: Sarah Damberger arts1@su.ucalgary.ca; Hana Kadri arts2@su.ucalgary.ca; Kelsy Norman arts3@su.ucalgary.ca; Jack Mills arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. 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.

SAFEWALK

Call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and 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 WINTER 2013:

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