



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 423 Lec 01 – “Metaphysics”
Winter Term 2015**

Course Outline

Lectures: TuTh 9.30-10.45 in SS 541

Instructor: Noa Latham
Office: SS 1250
Phone: 220-5528
Email: latham@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Tu 12-1; Th 11-12; and by appointment.

Course Description

We'll be examining what categories of existent we need to characterise the world. We'll look into the question 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 Reading

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

Course Requirements

A take-home midterm due Monday Feb 9 worth 15% of the final grade, two papers 1500-2100 words (5-7 pages) due Friday Mar 13 and Wednesday April 15 worth 30% each, and a Registrar scheduled final exam worth 25% of the final grade. All assignments are due 4pm in the course drop box opposite my office.

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 can boost your grade by as much as one grade step (e.g. from B to B+). I shall be using D2L to post assignments and grades, to confirm what we are reading for the next lecture, and to provide some questions on those readings.

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 13	Introduction	
Jan 15	Nominalism	Armstrong Chapter 1
Jan 20		Armstrong Chapter 2
Jan 22, 27		Armstrong Chapter 3
Jan 29, Feb 3	Bundle Theory	Armstrong Chapter 4
Feb 5	Universals	Plato <i>Republic</i> excerpts from books VI and X
Feb 10, 12		Armstrong Chapter 5
Feb 17, 19	Reading Week	
Feb 24	Tropes	D.C. Williams "The Elements of Being"
Feb 26		Keith Campbell "The Metaphysic of Abstract Particulars"
Mar 3		Armstrong Chapter 6
Mar 5		Armstrong Chapter 7
Mar 10	Objects and Events	Donald Davidson "The Individuation of Events"
Mar 12		Jonathan Bennett "Introduction to Events"
Mar 17		Noa Latham "Spatial and Spatiotemporal Particulars"
Mar 19		Peter van Inwagen "Doctrine of Arbitrary Undetached Parts"
Mar 24	Laws and Dispositions	David Lewis Introduction to <i>Collected Papers Vol 2</i>
Mar 26, 31		Barry Loewer "Humean Supervenience"
Apr 2, 7		Alexander Bird "A Dispositionalist Conception of Laws"
Apr 9		Bigelow, Ellis and Lierse "The World as One of a Kind"
Apr 14		Tim Maudlin "The Whole Ball of Wax"

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 permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email access@ucalgary.ca. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for 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. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's learning management system which has now replaced BlackBoard. Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning– Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at S5110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/> for more information on common academic concerns.
- **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, email 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. For more information, see www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds. For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: 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 WINTER 2015:

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For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact
Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)