



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 451 Lec 01: Contemporary Ethical Theories**

**Fall Term 2013**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: MW 3:30-4:45, KNB 133**

**Instructor:** Jeremy Fischer

**Office:** SS 1212

**Phone:** 403-220-5989

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

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30pm-1:30pm

**Course Description**

This course will provide both (i) a wide-ranging survey of accounts of particular factors (such as well-being, desert, doing harm, intending harm, lying, promising, and rights) that seem to be relevant to the moral status of our actions, and (ii) a detailed consideration of the moral theories (especially varieties of consequentialism and deontology) that most plausibly explain the relevance of these particular factors.

**Required Texts**

1. Shelly Kagan, *Normative Ethics* (Westview, 1997).
2. Various recent journal publications which are available via the U of C Library website.

**Evaluation**

1. Two short (5-7 page) essay assignments, the first one of which must be revised and resubmitted in light of my comments.
  - a. Essay #1, due October 2<sup>nd</sup>, is worth 15% of the final grade.
  - b. Revised Essay #1, due October 9<sup>th</sup>, is worth 5% of the final grade.
  - c. Essay #2, due November 27<sup>th</sup>, is worth 25% of the final grade.
2. One closed-book in-class midterm examination, on October 30<sup>th</sup>: 20%
3. One open-book take-home final examination, due via Blackboard by December 9<sup>th</sup>: 25%
4. (There will not be any Registrar-scheduled final examination.)
5. Class Participation: 10%
  - a. Class participation includes participating in classroom discussions, visiting office hours, and corresponding with me via email about the material of the course. You should aim to participate in some way at least once every week, on average.
6. A passing grade on each of the two main components of the course—essay assignments and exams—is essential if the student is to pass the course as a whole.
7. 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>

## Grading Method

Conversion of percentage of 400 total points to letter grade:

95-100 = A+	85-87 = B+	75-77 = C+	64-67 = D+
92-94 = A	82-84 = B	72-74 = C	59-63 = D
88-91 = A-	78-81 = B-	68-71 = C-	58 or less = F

Students close to the borderline of a higher grade will be bumped up only if they have completed all assignments and the final exam reflects the higher score.

## Policy on Late Assignments

There will be a penalty for late assignments except in the event of a personal emergency, unless an extension was arranged in advance.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

## Student Advising and Information Resources

- **General Academic Concerns** – Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Program Planning** – For assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit it on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- **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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building  
and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

**PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2013:**

Chris Framarin [chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca)

Lorraine Markotic [lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca)

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) [migotti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:migotti@ucalgary.ca)

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