Course Outline

PHIL 461-1
Epistemology
Winter 2020

Lectures: Monday 5:00-7:45
Location: SS 012

Instructor: Reid Buchanan
Office: SS1220
Phone: 220-3168
E-mail: buchanar@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: MoWeFr 1:30 – 2:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Perhaps the most crucial concern of traditional epistemology is whether the justification of (or the evidence for) our beliefs and claims to knowledge is sufficient. As a way to focus traditional and contemporary developments and debates concerning, e.g., the nature and conditions of sufficient justification/evidence (such as the “Internalist/Externalist” debate) or the structure of justification/evidence (such as the “Foundationalist/Coherentist” debate) it is instructive to explore such issues in terms of the extent to which they are motivated by, and the extent to which they avoid, the threat of philosophical scepticism – the view that the evidential bases for knowledge are insufficient.

PREREQUISITES
Two previous courses in Philosophy, at least one of which must be at the 300 level, or higher, and one of which must be Philosophy 201 or 395.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
The general aims of the course are to have students acquire the ability to distinguish and appreciate core issues associated with epistemology, the ability to identify philosophical reasoning, particularly to recognize, extract, and evaluate arguments, and finally, the ability to research and write philosophical exams and essays that have plausible theses and reasonable supporting arguments.

REQUIRED TEXT

COURSE ASSESSMENT
The course work will consist of two in-class exams, a quiz, and a term paper (4-6 pages). Thus, writing and the grading thereof is the major factor in the evaluation of your work for this course.
There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.
A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not essential to pass the course as a whole.
The weight for each requirement is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>% of Course Grade</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>February 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>March 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>April 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>April 15</td>
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Letter grades will be assigned in accordance with the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-45</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>46-50</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>51-55</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>56-60</td>
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<td>71-75</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>76-80</td>
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<td>81-85</td>
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<td>86-90</td>
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<td>91-95</td>
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<tr>
<td>96-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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COURSE POLICIES
I expect that the course will proceed in accordance with the course schedule. However, unforeseen contingencies, e.g., particular difficulty or ease with a section of the course, may necessitate changes in the content covered on the dates listed on the schedule.

Attendance
Attendance is not mandatory, but I do expect you to make every effort to be present at each session. Excepting extraordinary circumstances, I expect advance notice that you will be unable to attend class for an exam or to submit an assignment by the due date.

How to Contact Me
You can see me during my office hours or make an appointment to see me at some other time. If you wish to make an appointment, please contact me directly by telephone or E-mail. Perhaps the best way to reach me is through E-mail, which I typically check a number of times each day. I should also mention that I encourage you to offer me feedback about any aspect of the course — it is important for me to know how you think things are going, and to be flexible enough to adjust to your needs.

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 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).