



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 499.2 Lec 1
“Topics in Philosophy: The Good Life”
Winter Term 2017

Course Outline

Lectures: 12:00 – 12:50 MWF (EDC 284)

Instructor: Chris Framarin

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10:45 – 11:45 and by appointment

Course Description

In this course, we will evaluate competing analyses of the good life, where ‘the good life’ refers to a life that is intrinsically valuable for the person whose life it is. We will consider some of the following questions, among others: What makes a life intrinsically valuable for the person whose life it is? What is the relationship between the good life and the happy life? How does freedom contribute to the good life? Can the moral saint live the good life? Is meaningfulness a necessary condition of the good life? Can the ascetic – as described in seminal South Asian texts, in particular – live the good life?

Prerequisites:

Two previous courses in Philosophy, at least one of which is at the 300 level.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge of literature on value theory, especially the good life;
- Ability to assess the written work of other authors accurately and charitably;
- Ability to develop convincing objections to the work of other authors;
- Ability to construct a convincing argument in support of a position, and consider possible objections;
- Ability to participate in constructive, respectful discussion.

Required Texts:

Feldman, Fred. 2012. *What is This Thing Called Happiness?* (Oxford: Oxford University Press) (available at the university book store)

Wolf, Susan. 2012. *Meaning in Life and Why It Matters* (Princeton: Princeton University Press) (available for second half of semester at university book store)

Additional papers and chapters posted to D2L

Course Assessment

Students' final grades will be based on their grades for three (4-8 page) papers

Paper One (Due Wednesday, Feb. 15)	25%
Paper Two (Due Wednesday, Mar. 15)	35%
Paper Three (Due Wednesday, Apr. 12)	40%

Grading Scale:

96-100 = A+	80-84.9 = B+	65-69.9 = C+	53-54.9 = D+
90-95.9 = A	75-79.9 = B	60-64.9 = C	50-52.9 = D
85-89.9 = A-	70-74.9 = B-	55-59.9 = C-	< 50 = F

There will be no final exam in this course. A passing grade is not required on any single assignment.

Papers must be turned in on the day they are due, in class. Papers should be prepared for blind review (as explained on assignments and in class).

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, 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

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

General Academic Concerns and Program Planning

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed 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 Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl (jfantl@ucalgary.ca), Reid Buchanan (buchanan@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca).

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 Department Manager, Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

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 or teaching assistant.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging 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.

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>