



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 523.5 Lec 01
Advanced Topics in Metaphysics (Naturalistic Metaphysics)
Fall Term 2015

Wednesdays 12:00-2:45 pm in SS 1253

Course Outline

Instructor: Ken Waters
Phone: 403-220-5989
Office Hours: By Appointment

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Instructor: Marc Ereshefsky
Phone: 403-220-3162
Office Hours: By Appointment

Office: SS1204
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Course Description

The topic of this seminar is metaphysical inquiry informed by science. This class will meet with a graduate seminar (PHIL 623).

Course Work

Written Preparations for Class Discussion

One paragraph descriptions of a question that could be discussed in class. The question may be remedial, seeking an account of an important claim or argument in the reading that you could not follow. Or the question could be more critical in nature, alluding to a weakness in the paper. Or the question could be probing, identifying an issue that is raised by the reading or a possible implication of the reading. Your description should both describe the question and briefly explain why it is an important question.

Two papers

Papers will be based on class readings and discussions. Students will be required to submit two versions of each paper, a rough draft (2,500 words maximum including footnotes and but not references) and a final draft (3,000 words maximum including footnotes but not references). Topics will be assigned.

Peer Comments Report

During the last week of the class, students will meet in groups of three or four to discuss one another's papers (you will select which of your papers will be read and discussed by your peers).

You will write a report that will include your comments on peer papers and an account of what you learned when students commented on your paper.

Due Dates and Grading

Important note: there is a reading and written preparation due on the first class (September 9).

No late assignments will be accepted without an appropriate excuse.

No registrar scheduled final will be given.

Assignment	Due date	Points
Written preparations for first class	Beginning of first class	Required, but no point value
10 written preparations for class	Beginning of each class weeks 2 -11	10 points (1 apiece)
Rough Draft Paper 1 value	Oct 5	Required, but no point
Final Draft Paper 1	Oct 21	40 pts
Rough Draft Paper 2 value	Nov 2	Required, but no point
Final Draft Paper 2	Nov 18	40 pts
Peer Comments Report	Dec 7	10 pts

Final grades will be awarded as follows

96-100 = A+	75-79 = B	55-59 = C-
90-95 = A	70-74 = B-	50-54 = D+
85-89 = A-	65-69 = C+	45-49 = D
80-84 = B+	60-64 = C	below 45 = F

Readings

Readings will be available on-line. There are no texts to purchase for this course.

The reading for the first class, September 9th, is Kincaid, Harold (2013) "Introduction: Pursuing a Naturalist Metaphysics" in *Scientific Metaphysics*, ed. Don Ross, James Ladyman, Harold Kincaid, 1 - 19. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Subsequent readings will be announced throughout the semester.

Course Schedule

The first four classes (September 9, 16, 23, and 30) will be devoted to reading and discussing foundational readings on scientific metaphysics. The second four or five classes (October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4) will be devoted to discussing graduate student topic areas and readings related to these topic areas. The final two or three classes (November 4, 18, 25) will be devoted to discussing drafts of graduate student research papers. During the final class, 523 students will meet in groups of three or four to discuss one another's papers (you will select which of your papers will be read and discussed by your peers).

Style and Citation Requirements

All written work for this course should be submitted as hard copies and adhere to the formatting requirements of the journal *Philosophy of Science* with three exceptions:

1. Please put your name on the upper right corner of the first page of everything you turn in.
2. Include page numbers at the bottom of each page of any multipage submission.
3. You do not need to include an abstract for any assignment other than the rough and final drafts of the term paper.

The formatting requirements of *Philosophy of Science* can be found at:

<http://journal.philsci.org/formatting-guidelines>

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

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 the University of Calgary's online learning management system. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- 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 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 or teaching assistant.

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 FALL 2015:

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