



**Philosophy 523 Lec 01
Advanced Topics in Metaphysics**

Fall Term 2018 Course Outline

Lectures: T 17:30-20:15 (SS 1253)

Instructor: Ali Kazmi

Email: akazmi@ucalgary.ca

Office: SS 1252

Office Hours: TR 12:30-13:30

Office Phone: 403-220-5535

Course Description:

This course offers a detailed examination of selected topics in metaphysics, with focus on identity and necessity.

Prerequisites:

Two previous courses in philosophy at least one of which must be at the 400 level and one of which must be one of Philosophy 201, 395, 421, 423, 463, 467, 481, or 483.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will examine the concepts of identity and necessity, with selected readings from contemporary sources. The topics will include the definability of identity, its place in logic, its relation to various principles of indiscernibility and substitution, the necessity of identity and its philosophical significance. The students will present their research in short essays.

Recommended Text:

There is no required text book for this course. The following journal articles and book chapters are recommended:

1. Quine, W. V. O., "The Scope of Logic," *Philosophy of Logic* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1970), 61-64.
2. Cartwright, Richard, "Identity and Substitutivity," in Milton K. Munitz, ed., *Identity and Individuation* (New York: New York University Press, 1971), 119-133.
3. Cartwright, Richard, "Indiscernibility Principles," *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 4 (1979), 293-306.
4. Quine, W.V. O., "Referemce and Modality," *From A Logical Point of View* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1953), 139-159.
5. Smullyan, Arthur, "Modality and Description," *The Journal of Symbolic Logic* 13, (1948), 31-37.
6. Burgrss, John, "Quinus ab Omni Naevo Vindicatus," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, Supplementary Volume 23, (1997), 25-65.
7. Kripke, Saul, "Identity and Necessity," in Milton K. Munitz, ed., *Identity and Individuation* (New York: New York University Press, 1971), 135-164.
8. Salmon, Nathan, "How Not to Derive Essentialism from the Theory of Reference," *The Journal of Philosophy* 76, 12, (1979), 703-725.
9. Soames, Scott, "Kripke on Epistemic and Metaphysical Possibility: Two Routes to the Necessary *Aposteriori*," in Alan Berger, ed., *Saul Kripke* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

10. Soames, Scott, "The Philosophical Significance of the Kripkean Necessary *Aposteriori*," *Philosophical Topics* 16, (2006), 287-309.

Course Assessment:

There will be three take-home assignments. The first assignment will be weighted 25% of the final mark, the second assignment will be weighted 35% of the final mark, and the third assignment will be weighted 40% of the final mark. No late coursework will be accepted under normal circumstances. There will be no Registrar-scheduled final examination. The following table will be used to calculate letter grades from the final marks. Passing mark in any one assignment is not required to pass the course.

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 0-45% F | 56-60% C- | 71-75% B- | 86-90% A- |
| 45-50% D | 61-65% C | 76-80% B | 91-95% A |
| 51-55% D+ | 66-70% C+ | 81-85% B+ | 96-100% A+ |

Schedule of Assignments:

| Assignment | Given On | Due in Class On |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| #1 | October 2 | October 9 |
| #2 | October 23 | October 30 |
| #3 | November 20 | December 4 |

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 will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. See the relevant section K.5 on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.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 correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy. 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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> 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/advising> 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. David Dick (dgdick@ucalgary.ca), Jack MacIntosh (macintos@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca).

Registration Overload/Prerequisite Waivers

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prerequisites for a course, email the Department Manager, Tram Nguyen (tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca).

Writing

This course will include written assignments. 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

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must 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 Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>