



Caleb Lee
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SS 1205

Hi, My name is Caleb Lee. I did my PhD here at the University of Calgary. My research was on: What the idea of belief tells us about what makes a belief good. I have been teaching here on and off since 2012.

This class was originally about the divine hiddenness argument against God's existence. According to that argument it follows from the fact that one can reasonably not believe in God that God doesn't exist. In the reconceived version of this course we will broaden our focus and look at the reasonableness of religious belief in general. We will consider whether and how faith can justify belief, the nature of revelation and religious experience, and the role of evidence in religious belief. We will then consider reasonable unbelief and its theological implications.

SCHEDULE

Date	Topic
20-Sep	Ethic of Belief Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief" James, "The Will to Believe"
27-Sep	Religious Experience Alston, "Perceiving God" Ch 6 Why God Won't Go Away: Brain Science and the Biology of Belief By Andrew Newberg, M.D., Eugene G. D'Aquili
04-Oct	Prudential Belief Pascal, "The Wager" Lara Buchak "Can it be Rational to have Faith?"
11-Oct	Kierkegaardian Fideism Kierkegaard, "Truth is Subjectivity" Evans "Kierkegaard and the Limits of Reason: Can There Be a Responsible Fideism?"
18-Oct	Wittgensteinian Fiedism TBD
25-Oct	Reformed Epistemology Plantinga "Reason and Belief in God" Swinburne, "Review of Warranted Christian Belief by Alvin Plantinga", Religious Studies, 37: 203-214.
01-Nov	Propositional faith PROPOSITIONAL FAITH: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT Daniel Howard-Snyder Faith, Belief and Fictionalism Finlay Malcolm & Michael Scott
08-Nov	Faith as Hope or Commitment Pojman, "Faith Without Belief" Sennett, "I Believe; Help My Unbelief!"
15-Nov	Hiddenness Ch 1 -2
22-Nov	Hiddenness Ch 3 - 4
29-Nov	Hiddenness Ch 5 -6
06-Dec	Hiddenness Ch 7

Prerequisites: Two
Philosophy course one of
which at the 400 level.

TEXTS

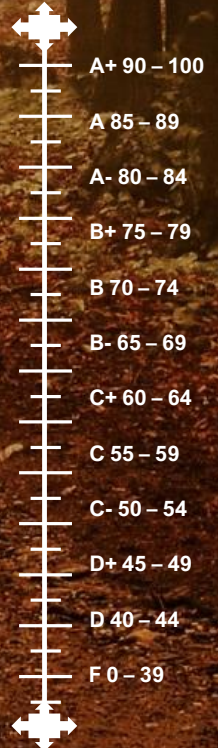
- ❖ Schellenberg, John, *Divine Hiddenness and Human Reason* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993)
- ❖ Schellenberg, John, *The Hiddenness Argument: Philosophy's New Challenge to Belief in God* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015)
- ❖ Other Readings in the Schedule are available online or will be made available on D2L

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Gain broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, in the epistemology of religion;
- ❖ Gain deep knowledge of the hiddenness argument;
- ❖ Critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex texts;
- ❖ Write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- ❖ Engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

GRADING SCHEMA

- ❖ Tests (2, 40% each)
There will be two take home tests, each worth 40% of the final mark. The first take home test is due on D2L by 23:59, November 2. The second take home test is due on D2L by 23:59, December 7.
- ❖ Participation (Class discussion, Presentation, 20% total)
At this level, and with our class size, every member is expected to contribute each week to the discussion of that week's topic. After the first 2-3 weeks, one or two class members will respond to the presentation and the posted paper, opening the class discussion. Your presentation, and participation in class discussion, will be worth 20% of the final mark.



It is not essential to pass any one component to pass the course.
Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of a student's work.
There is no final exam.
Late work is not accepted without reasonable excuse.

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 Philosophy Department Undergraduate Program Administrator (UPA). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

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/>