PHIL 527 Lec 01
Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Religion
(Renunciation and the Good Life)
FALL 2020

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Chris Framarin (he/him)
Email: chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Fridays 1:00 – 2:00 and by appointment (on Zoom – link posted to D2L)

COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION
This course will be entirely online, and entirely synchronous. This means that all class meetings will occur on Zoom, during the scheduled class time (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.).

RECORDINGS
Some class meetings for this course will be recorded and made available on D2L.

PREREQUISITE(S)
Six units in courses labelled Philosophy with three units at the 400 level or above.

COURSE INFORMATION
Philosophers tend to analyze the good life in terms of a life that contains sufficient pleasure experiences, desire satisfactions, and/or other "worldly" goods and experiences, like friendship. Certain influential ascetic traditions of South Asia, however, prescribe the abandonment pleasure, desire, and the pursuit of earthly ends. This might be taken to imply that these traditions enjoin an ideal that is not worth pursuing. In this course, we will consider this apparent contradiction, and develop and evaluate possible replies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students will develop broad knowledge of the philosophical literature on welfare/well-being/the good life.
Students will evaluate positions and arguments advanced in Sanskrit texts (read in English translation).
Students will apply their knowledge of the philosophical literature on welfare/well-being/the good life to their study of asceticism and soteriology in select South Asian traditions.
Students will write essays that assess the positions and arguments of other authors.
Students will write essays that develop original arguments and/or objections.
Students will participate in an oral (online) discussion forum in a way that respects different backgrounds, experiences, and interpretations.
Students will present a written paper in class and respond to questions.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS
All readings for this course will either be posted to D2L or linked from D2L.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

First Paper (Date varies for each student)	20%
Second Paper (Date varies for each student)	30%
Class Presentation (Date varies for each student)	10%
Class Participation (Weekly)	10%
Final Paper (Due Monday, December 14)	30%

The first and second papers will be 3-5 pages in length. The class presentation will consist of reading one of these two papers to the class, and responding to suggestions and questions from the instructor and students. Due dates for the first two papers and the presentation will vary, depending on the topic that each student chooses. The sign-up for topics will take place during the third week of class (after the first drop deadline). Students must meet with the instructor one week before their class presentation, and provide an overview of the argument they plan to present. Arguments must be approved by the instructor. The final paper will be 7-8 pages in length. Ideally, the final paper will develop the central argument of one of the shorter papers. All papers will be submitted through D2L. Late assignments will lose two points per day. Class participation will be assessed on the basis of student participation in discussions in class, and participation on discussion lists, when relevant. Anonymous posts to discussion lists do not count toward a student's participation grade.

Grading Method
Grades will be calculated as follows:

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

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. 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.

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. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Required Technology
In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:
- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L
Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Media Recording
Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students:
https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Academic Misconduct/Honesty
Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is 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. 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-policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).