PHIL 571
Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Logic and Language: Conceptual Engineering
Winter 2020
TuTh, 2-3:15
SS 1253

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: David Liebesman
Email: David.liebesman@ucalgary.ca
Office: SS 1202
Office Hours: Tues. 12-2
Office Phone: (403) 220-3163

COURSE INFORMATION
One thing we can do with our words is ask what they mean. This is a popular activity among philosophers and linguists. Another thing we can do is ask what our words should mean. At least recently, this has been a somewhat less popular activity. More generally, we can ask what sorts of representational devices, including word and concepts, we should create and adopt in order suit various purposes. This is one understanding of conceptual engineering. We’ll cover a variety of issues in philosophy of language pertaining to the possibility, understanding, and limits of conceptual engineering.

PREREQUISITE(S)
Two previous courses in Philosophy, one of which must be either Philosophy 279 or 377, and one of which must be at the 400 level, or higher.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES
• Knowledge of the key issues involving meaning endowment and change.
• Knowledge of the different models of conceptual engineering and their respective advantages and disadvantages.
• Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze contemporary articles in philosophy of language pertaining to conceptual engineering.
• Ability to develop and defend original positions.
• Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION
Assessment Components and Grading Schemes
• Four short papers (approx. 500 words), due on Jan. 23rd, Feb. 6th, Feb. 27th, and March. 19th, and submitted via D2L (5% of the grade each, 20% total).
• Two exams, in class on Feb. 13th and Mar. 26th (25% of the grade each).
• One longer paper (approx. 2,500 words), final draft due on April 19th and submitted via D2L.
  Rough draft due on April 2nd and peer review due on April 9th. (1% for the rough draft, 1% for the
  peer review, and 28% for the final draft, for a total of 30% of the final grade).
• Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 letter grade per day, unless arrangements with the
  professor are made in advance of the due date.

Letter Grade Conversion Table

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>96–100 %</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>80-85.9 %</td>
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Exams
• There is no registrar-scheduled final exam.
• No aids are allowed for the in-class exams.

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

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. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of
documentation be provided. 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. For information on
possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see
ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html

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 (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

**Online Resources and Electronic Devices**

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

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. 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.

**Academic Misconduct/Honesty**

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