



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 579.01/679.02 -- "PARADOXES"
Winter Term 2012

Course Outline

Lectures: W 1-3:50
Room: SS 1253

Instructor: Richard Zach Office: SS 1254 Phone: 403-220-3170 Email: rzach@ucalgary.ca Office Hours: MW 4-5	Instructor: Jeremy Fantl Office: SS 1238 Phone: 403-220-5022 Email: jfantl@ucalgary.ca Office Hours: T 2-3:30
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Course Description

An investigation of paradoxes and their philosophical relevance in areas such as vagueness, sets and properties, rational action, probabilistic and inductive reasoning. The first half of the course will deal with a collection of "classic" paradoxes mainly having to do with logic and semantics: the paradox of the heap (aka, the Sorites paradox), semantic paradoxes (such as the Liar Paradox, Grelling's Paradox, and Yablo's Paradox), Russell's Paradox in set theory, and their proposed solutions. In the second half of the course we will look at paradoxes arising in other areas: inductive reasoning (Hempel's Raven Paradox and Goodman's Grue Paradox); conditional reasoning and epistemic paradoxes (such as the Surprise Examination Paradox); paradoxes of probabilistic reasoning (the Sleeping Beauty Problem); and paradoxes of decision theory (Newcomb's Problem and the Two Envelope Paradox).

Required Text

Readings will be made available electronically.

Evaluation

For PHIL 579.01

4 homework assignments (10% each), class participation (20%), final project (paper: 30%, presentation: 10%)

For PHIL 679.02

4 homework assignments (10% each), presentation (20%), final project (40%)

The final project consists in a substantial paper requiring independent research. It should be about 2,500-4,000 words for undergraduates registered in Phil 579, and about 3,500-5,000 words for graduate students registered in 679.02 (excluding bibliography). Undergraduate students will give a brief presentation on their final project in the last week of classes.

Class participation counts for 20% of the final grade of students enrolled in Phil 579.01. Your participation will be assessed on the basis of your contribution to discussion in class and on the course website. (If you are shy and don't want to speak in class, 4 posts with substantive philosophical content in the online discussion forum will earn you an A for this part of the final grade.) However, if all of your posts occur within one 7-day period, at most 3 of them will be counted toward your participation mark. Only posts before the due date of the final paper count.

Grading Method

On each assignment you will receive a letter grade reflecting the level of comprehension of the readings and your ability to assess philosophical arguments shown by the work you submit. There will be no +/- grades, but "slash" grades (e.g., A/B) are possible. The meanings of letter grades are defined in the Calendar; for written work, they amount roughly to the following criteria:

A Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter. (Your writing is clear and concise; your assignments make obvious that your understanding of the issues and arguments is correct and complete; you show superior ability in representing and assessing others' philosophical arguments; you show ability for original philosophical thinking).

B Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete. (You show a good grasp of the assigned reading; but either your writing is not perfectly clear or your assignments are largely only expository and don't show the critical ability required for an A).

C Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter. (Your work shows that you've worked through the reading and attended class, but your assignments misrepresent the arguments we're discussing, or your criticisms are off the mark.)

D Minimal pass—marginal performance. (Your work is unclear or confused; or you grossly misrepresent the arguments we're discussing.)

F Fail—Unsatisfactory performance. (Your work fails to show that you've made a serious attempt at coming to grips with the material; or your writing borders on the incomprehensible.)

In computing your final grade, your marks will be converted to grade points and averaged according to the weights given above. The correspondence of letter grades with grade points is defined in the Calendar (A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0). "Slash" grades receive 0.5 below the value of the higher grade (e.g., A/B = 3.5).

The final grade will be the letter grade corresponding to the weighted average of your assignments, papers, and participation plus a margin of 0.2. For the final grade, +'s and -'s are possible, too; as defined in the Calendar, +/- adds/subtracts 0.3 grade points. In other words, a course average of 3.8 or higher receives an A; at least 3.5 and less than 3.8, an A-; at least 3.1 and less than 3.5, a B+; at least 2.8 and less than 3.1, a B; and so on. (This means that for two A's and an A/B you still get an A overall; for two A's and a B, an A-.) There is no D- grade; to earn a D you require a course average of at least 0.8. The A+ grade is reserved for truly outstanding performance.

Policy on Late Assignments

You can get an extension on one and only one take-home assignment. You can take this extension for any reason at all. But you must clear it with us at least a day in advance of the due date and, again, you only get one. So save it for when you really need it. ***All unexcused late assignments will lose the equivalent of one full letter grade for each day the assignment is late, to a maximum of the equivalent of 4 full letter grades. Missing assignments receive a zero.***

Syllabus (tentative)

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 11	Introduction	Quine, " Paradoxes " Bolander, " Self reference "
Jan 18	Vagueness: Sorites Paradox	Hyde, " Sorites paradox " Dummett, " Wang's Paradox " Fine, " Vagueness, truth, and logic "
Jan 25	Truth: Liar Paradox	Tarski, " The semantic conception of truth " Glanzberg and Beall, " The liar paradox " Yablo, " Paradox without self reference "
Feb 1		Kripke, " Outline of a Theory of Truth "
Feb 8	Sets and Properties: Russell's Paradox Grelling's Paradox Berry's Paradox Burali-Forti Paradox	Cantini, " Paradoxes and contemporary logic " Russell, " On some difficulties in the theory of transfinite numbers and order types " Ramsey, " The Foundations of Mathematics "
Feb 15	Assessments of Semantic Paradoxes	Parsons, " Liar paradox " Burge, " Semantical paradox " Glanzberg, " The liar in context "
Feb 22	READING WEEK	
Feb 29	Induction: Grue The Raven	Hempel, " Studies in the Logic of Confirmation " Goodman, " New Riddle of Induction "
Mar 7	Deontic Logic	(guest lecture: Gillman Payette)
	Conditional Reasoning: Henry V Paradox	Dreier, "Practical Conditionals"
Mar 14	McGee's Paradoxes The Surprise Exam	McGee, " A Counterexample to Modus Ponens " Sorensen, " Epistemic paradoxes " Scriven, " Paradoxical Announcements "
Mar 21	The Dogmatism Paradox	Sorensen, " Dogmatism, Junk Knowledge, and Conditionals "
	Intro to Probability Theory	(guest lecture: Bengt Autzen)
Mar 28	Self-locating Belief: Sleepy Beauty The Shooting Room	Elga, " Self-locating Belief and the Sleeping Beauty Problem " Leslie, " Testing the Doomsday Argument "
Apr 4	Decision Theory: Newcomb's Problem Two Envelope Paradox	Nozick, " Newcomb's Problem and two principles of choice " Bar-Hillel and Margalit, " Newcomb's Paradox Revisited " Broome, " The Two-envelope Paradox "
Apr 11	Student presentations	

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising & Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, phone 403-220-3580 or email at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Email Contact Addresses for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:
arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. 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 unless other arrangements have been made in writing and filed with the Department Administrator.

SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).