



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 583.5 Lec 01

Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Mind (Meditation and the Self)

Fall 2017

Lectures: Tu 17.00-19.45 in ST 055

Outline

Instructor: Noa Latham
Office: SS 1250
Phone: 220-5528 (no messages)
Email: latham@ucalgary.ca
Office hours: Tu 1-2, Th 3.30-4.30, and by appointment.

Course Description

We will be comparing notions of the self with those of mind, soul, subject of experience, agent, and person. We will be looking into claims that the self or aspects of the self are illusory. We will examine the kinds of self-control that occur during meditation, and investigate attempts at classifying different forms of meditation and analysing the concept of meditation. We will examine claims that meditation leads to insight and explore the relations between meditation and value.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course you will be attempting to come to your own conclusions regarding the issues discussed by assessing arguments for and against the views presented in the readings. You will be developing your ability to comprehend, interpret, and analyse complex sources, as well as to recognise and construct convincing arguments both in writing and orally. You will develop your ability to write a research paper through multiple drafts and give a succinct presentation of some part of it.

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, 461, 463, 467, 481 or 483

Required Texts

Readings will be drawn from contemporary sources in philosophy and psychology and will be available on D2L under Course Documents.

Requirements and Evaluation

Four short papers 1200 words maximum, due Sep 30, Oct 14, Oct 28, Nov 11 submitted electronically to my email address by midnight, the best three of which will be worth 10% each of the course grade. A term paper proposal 500 words maximum submitted electronically due Nov 18 by midnight. A term paper (hard copy) roughly 4000 words worth 60% of the course grade, due in the course drop box opposite my office Friday Dec 8 at 4pm. A 20 minute class presentation together with your contribution to discussion of other students' presentations will be worth 10% of the course grade.

Late electronically submitted assignments will be marked down by one grade step, e.g. from a B+ to a B, for each day of lateness. There will be a similar penalty for late submission of the term paper, except that the time between Fri and Mon counts as one day. If you are anticipating any difficulty in turning your assignment in on time you must discuss the problem with me before the due date.

I shall be using D2L to post assignments and grades, to confirm what we are reading for the next class, and to provide some questions on those readings. All grades are assigned using a letter scale.

Cumulative and final grades will be computed on the D2L site using the following numerical conversion, which has been selected only for ease of calculation:

A+	98-100	B+	86-89	C+	74-77	D+	62-65
A	94-97	B	82-85	C	70-73	D	58-61
A-	90-93	B-	78-81	C-	66-69	F	0-57

Electronic Devices

Cellphones are not to be used in class.

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 may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. 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 ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

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/undergraduate> 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. Jeremy Fantl (jfantl@ucalgary.ca), Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca).

Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the Department Manager, Tram Nguyen (tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that 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 Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>