



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 623.7 Lec 02**  
**"Topics in Metaphysics: Freedom and Obligation"**  
**Fall Term 2017**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: R 15:30 – 18:15 in SS 1253**

**Instructor: Ish Haji**

**Office: SS 1253**

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**Email: ihaji@ucalgary.ca**

**Office Hours: TR 1:50 – 2:50**

**Course Description**

It is widely believed that moral responsibility requires freedom. A far less discussed view to be explored in this seminar is that obligation requires freedom. If obligation requires freedom, is this freedom compatible or incompatible with determinism?

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Students should be able to

1. Explain key concepts concerning free action and obligation.
2. Critically analyze philosophical texts on free action and obligation.
3. Acquire in depth knowledge of the freedom requirements of obligation.
4. Write a convincing argument for or against fundamental issues to be discussed concerning free action and obligation.
5. Engage in constructive oral argumentation regarding relevant concepts, principles, or theories introduced in the course.

**Required Texts (including electronic resources)**

Students will be supplied with a list of papers. Each of these papers is available online in journals or in other venues to which our University Library subscribes.

**Course Assessment**

(1) Three 7-page final papers, each worth 30% of the final grade. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in evaluation. Writing should be clear, coherent, and to the point.

(2) Three Rough Drafts: For each paper you will write a one-page draft. At least one of your classmates and I will review this draft. Some of you may have your drafts workshopped by the class as a whole. These drafts are not graded, although a missing draft will reduce the grade of your final corresponding paper. (See the policy on late assignments below.)

**Tentative Assignment Dates:**

First draft paper: Thursday, October 5  
First final paper: Thursday, October 12  
Second draft paper: Thursday, October 26  
Second final paper: Thursday, November 2  
Third draft paper: Thursday, November 30  
Third final paper: Thursday, December 7

(3) Seminar participation worth 10% of the final grade: You are expected to be an active participant in seminar discussions. Read the course material and have questions and comments ready. You cannot participate if you are not present. You are allowed naught (0) unexcused absences. For each unexcused absence, your grade for the next final paper that is due will be reduced by one full letter grade.

(4) There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

(5) There will be no provisions for “extra-credit.” A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole.

**Grading Method:**

Each paper will be assigned a letter grade. You will also receive a letter grade for your participation. Your overall grade for the course will be an average of your letter grades on your papers and participation. Letter grades will be averaged by using the following scheme.

**Conversion of Number Grades into Letter Grades:**

A+ = 100-96; A = 95-90; A- = 89-85; B+ = 84-80; B = 79-75; B- = 74-71; C+ = 70-67; C = 66-62; C- = 61-59;  
D+ = 58-54; D = 53-50; F = 49-0.

**Late or Missing Assignments:**

No unexcused late final essays or drafts will be accepted without official and adequate documentation. Missing final essays will receive an “F” (a numerical score of zero). Each missing draft essay will reduce the grade of the final corresponding essay by two whole letter grades.

**IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

**Academic Honesty**

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, 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](http://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](https://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.

### **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.