



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 649.11 Lec 01
“Topics in Ethics” Twin Dilemmas
Fall Term 2019

Course Outline

Lectures: R 2:00 – 3:15 EDC 384

Instructor: Ish Haji
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Office Hours: TR 12:25 – 1:25

Course Description

The responsibility dilemma attempts to show that moral responsibility is incompatible with determinism and its falsity; analogously, the obligation dilemma seeks to establish the incompatibility of obligation with determinism and its falsity. The primary objective of this course is to develop and assess these twin dilemmas.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to

1. Explain key concepts concerning free action, obligation, and responsibility.
2. Critically analyze philosophical texts on free action, obligation, and responsibility.
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, obligation, and responsibility.
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 or book chapters. Each of these is available online in journals or other venues to which our University Library subscribes.

Course Assessment

(1) Three seven-page papers. The first paper will be worth 30% of the final grade. The second and third papers will each be worth 35% 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 Summaries: For each paper you will write a one-page summary. At least one of your classmates and I will review this summary. Some of you may have your summaries workshopped by the class as a whole. These summaries are not graded, although a missing summary will reduce the grade of your final corresponding paper. (See the policy on late assignments below.)

Tentative Assignment Dates:

First summary	Thursday, October 3
First paper	Thursday, October 10
Second summary	Thursday, October 31
Second paper	Thursday, November 7
Third summary	Thursday, November 28
Third paper	Thursday, December 5

(3) You are expected to be an active participant in class discussions. Read the course material and have questions and comments ready.

(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. The student’s overall grade for the course will be an average of the student’s letter grades on the student’s papers. 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 summaries will be accepted without official and adequate documentation. Missing final essays will receive an “F” (a numerical score of zero). Each missing summary will reduce the grade of the final corresponding essay by two whole letter grades.

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

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/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/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 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.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).