

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 4550-01 Philosophy Honours Workshop / Fall 2010

Instructor: Jeff Mitscherling MacKinnon 323 / ext. 53197 / email: jmitsche@uoguelph.ca
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 12–2, and by appointment

Class meets: Monday & Wednesday 10:00-11:20, MacKinnon 313

In the boxes just below are [i] the description of this course as it was offered last year, along with the method of evaluation—this description was provisionally posted online for this semester’s offering of the course— and [ii] the description of this course that is found in the undergraduate calendar.

[i]

Brief Description of Course:

This course trains upper-level students in advanced methods of philosophical research, writing and analysis. The first part of the course will be devoted to learning how to develop a sound research proposal related to a particular topic, which will be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. The second half of the course will focus on developing the proposal into a fourth-year research paper. Through a workshop format, students will hone their critical research skills. Editing skills will also be developed. Student projects will include written assignments and various formats of oral presentation. This course is especially recommended for students planning to pursue graduate studies in Philosophy.

Method of Evaluation:

The student’s final mark for the course will be based upon the following four components:

- Oral Presentations (4 X 10%) 40%
- Draft Proposal 15%
- Annotated Bibliography 15%
- Final Research Paper (12-15pp) 30%

[ii]

This course trains upper level students in advanced methods of philosophical analysis. Through a workshop format, students will hone their creative and critical skills. Students will learn to analyze and make use of such methods as phenomenology and dialectics, hermeneutics and deconstruction, analytic philosophy and the use of formal logic in conceptual analysis, as well as other methods (including classical methods in philosophy). Editing and peer-reviewing skills will also be developed. Student projects include long and short written assignments, and various formats of oral presentation. This course is especially recommended for students planning to pursue graduate studies in Philosophy.

In this semester's offering of this course, we shall be doing our best to follow both of these descriptions. The structure of the course and the sorts of presentations and written assignments—that is, the method of evaluation—will be determined during and immediately following the first meeting of the class on Monday 13 September. Depending upon the number of students who are intending to apply to graduate studies in Philosophy or a related field, the nature of the presentations and assignments may be determined with regard to the preparation of application materials for both graduate programs and graduate scholarships (e.g., the Ontario Graduate Scholarship). In this event, students would be advised how to search for and select appropriate programs to which they might want to apply, and their presentations and/or written assignments might include a statement of intent (or of proposed research), as well as an annotated bibliography and a sample of written work (i.e., a 12-15 pp. paper). Several basic research skills and strategies will definitely be covered; for example:

- how to use library resources

- how to compile a proper bibliography

- how *not* to write a philosophy paper suitable for presentation, publication, or submission as part of an application package

- how to approach the writing of an MA or PhD thesis

- how to get involved in professional societies

- what's involved in conference presentation and paper publication

The number and diversity of the “methods” we shall be examining and employing will depend upon student interest, so we shall be determining these too only during and following our first class meeting.

See following Schedule of topics & assignments (p. 4 below) for method of evaluation.

SEVEN STANDARD STATEMENTS

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement...

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Fall 2010 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday November 4**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

