

## PHIL 4550, Philosophy Honours Workshop

Prof. K. Wendling

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Office hours: MW 2:30-3:20, Tu 4-5, and by appointment

Where have you been, and where are you going? This course is designed to get you to step back and think about the role of philosophy in your life, both over the last three to four years (or more), and in the years to come. What does philosophy mean to you? What do you like about it? What do you plan to do when you graduate? How, if at all, will philosophy be relevant to your future? One of the aims of the course is to help you prepare for the next steps in your life, after graduation, whether that involves college, teachers college, law school, grad school, or something else. We will discuss a range of things that people do with philosophy degrees; ways to explain to other people (including parents and employers) how philosophy is applicable to a non-philosophy career; how to apply to college, teachers college, law school, grad school, or whatever; taking the LSAT, the GRE, or other standardized tests, and so on. We also will discuss writing in plain language, and will practice explaining philosophy to non-philosophers, to help them understand why we like to think about weird things and perhaps why they should too. The course will combine research, writing, and presentation skills with field work and experiential learning.

### Required Texts

TBA

### Graded Components

1. Finding out how to apply for one of college, teachers college, law school, graduate school, some other school, or a non-philosophy job that interests you, plus a presentation and report on how to apply for it, 10%
2. An information interview, plus a presentation and report on your information interview, 15%
3. Job shadowing, plus a presentation and report on your job shadow, 15%
4. A presentation and report on the area of philosophy you like best, written and presented in two styles:
  - a. for a university student with no philosophical background, 20%
  - b. for a bright 10-year-old, 20%
5. A statement of interest or cover letter for a job, 10%
6. Participation, 10%

### Missed or Late Assignments

Missed or late presentations will be penalized 5% per week.

Late written assignments will be penalized 3% per day, to a maximum of 15%.

I give a two-day, no-questions-asked extension on all written assignments.

### 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 2012 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday November 1**. 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.

### Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

### 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/>

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counselling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>

### Schedule of Classes and Assignments (Tentative)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Homework &amp; Assignments</u>
M Sept. 9 W Sept. 11	Introduction; information interviews; job shadowing; non-philosophy careers	develop questions for information interviews; find someone to interview
M Sept. 16 W Sept. 18	Applying to professional or grad school, or for a non-philosophy job Reports on applying	find out how to apply; conduct information interview
M Sept. 23 W Sept. 25	Reports on applying Reports on info interviews	conduct information interview written report on applying to school/job due
M Sept. 30 W Oct. 2	Reports on info interviews	
M Oct. 7 W Oct. 9	Writing in plain language	written report on information interview due
M Oct. 14 W Oct. 16	Thanksgiving – no class Writing at different levels	
M Oct. 21 W Oct. 23	Presentations on writing at different levels	
M Oct. 28 W Oct. 30	Presentations on writing at different levels	written reports on writing at 2 levels due
M Nov. 4 W Nov. 6	Presentations on writing at different levels	written reports on writing at 2 levels due
M Nov. 11 W Nov. 13	Statements of interest/ cover letters Presentations on job shadowing	written reports on writing at 2 levels due
M Nov. 18 W Nov. 20	Presentations on job shadowing Interview skills	written reports on job shadowing due statement of interest or cover letter due
M Nov. 25 W Nov. 27 Th Nov. 28	Interview skills Discussion of s of i & c l Wrap-up	