

- Department of Philosophy, University of Guelph -

PHIL 6950/6960: M.A./Ph.D. Seminar

Fall 2014

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. PETER EARDLEY
OFFICE: MACKINNON 336
OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT
PHONE EXT.: 53211

CLASSROOM: MACK 346
TIME: TUESDAYS, 11:30-12:50

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to facilitate M.A. and Ph.D. students in the successful completion of their programs, where this is defined as completing degree requirements in a way that leads to a successful career in philosophy. Although M.A. and Ph.D. students are obviously at different stages of this career trajectory, there is significant overlap in that both are higher research degrees intended to train students to eventually become professional philosophers. Accordingly, what is relevant to one degree will be equally applicable to the other. More specifically, the course is designed to complement the crucial role of the advisory committee by providing a forum for graduate students to meet with each other for the purpose of discussing each others' projects, and by providing a forum for discussing program- and career-related issues with other faculty and professionals. Please note that, although you will not be receiving a numerical grade for your work, satisfactory performance in this course will entail regular attendance at class meetings (see 'evaluation' below), as well as departmental "Speaker Series" talks.

Specifically, the course as a whole will focus on the following topics:

1. Thinking about/preparing for the job market
2. Designing and teaching philosophy courses
3. Constructing a viable research program
4. Applying for Grants
5. Preparing for the oral qualifying exam (OQE) and the M.A. Conference.

Fall Semester

The Fall semester will focus on the sorts of skills that are useful in applying for grants, such as SSHRCs and OGSs, applying for academic jobs, and teaching. The first topic we will cover is the job market and how to prepare for it. The second will involve applying for SSHRCs and OGSs, and the third will focus on pedagogy. In particular the latter will be devoted to designing and teaching philosophy courses.

We will discuss a variety of topics in relation to this project, including: student engagement, rubrics and assessment, student writing and literacy. The Fall semester will conclude with each student presenting a 30-minute lecture to the group on an introductory reading that I will assign.

Winter Semester

In the winter semester, we will focus on research and specifically on drafting the Thesis Proposal and preparing for the Oral Qualifying Examination for doctoral students, and presenting conference paper for M.A. students. The schedule for the Winter Semester will be circulated at the end of this semester.

EVALUATION

This course is Pass/Fail. Passing the course requires attendance at all class meetings and successful completion of all course requirements. Students who miss more than two classes per semester without adequate documentation will not pass. All written work must be completed on time and to a satisfactory standard to pass the course. ("To a satisfactory standard" means that, if a piece of work is not satisfactory, you will have to re-do it to make it satisfactory.)

Requirements:

1. Regular Attendance and Participation
2. Mock Cover Letter and CV
3. 30 Minute Lecture to the Group

SCHEDULE

September

09: Introduction to the Course
16: Prof. John Russon (The Job Market in Academic Philosophy)
23: Prof. Andrew Wayne (Academic Search Committees)
30: Searching for Academic Jobs in Philosophy

October

07: Pascal Lupien (Tools for Advanced Research in Philosophy)*
14: Study Day - No Class
21: SSHRC and OGS application workshop (Ph.D. Students)

* Please note that this session will take place in the basement of the Library, in Room 034. Please bring your SSHRC and/or OGS proposals from last year to this meeting.

28: SSHRC and OGS application workshop (M.A. Students)

November

04: Erin Aspenlieder (Workshop on Teaching Strategies in Philosophy)

11: Teaching -- Practice Lecture

18: Teaching -- Practice Lecture

25: Teaching -- Practice Lecture

27: Teaching -- Practice Lecture

Important Dates:

1. October 31: SSHRC Doctoral Applications to be submitted to Janet.
2. December 01: OGS M.A. and Ph.D., as well as SSHRC M.A. applications, to be submitted to Janet.

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 2014 courses, without academic penalty, is *Thursday, October 30, 2014*. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Graduate Calendar:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/2014-2015/sched/sched-dates-f10.shtml>

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:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/2014-015/geninfo/geninfo-por.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:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies/gchandbook/academicmisconduct>

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.

Focus for winter term.

4. Draft Thesis Proposal
5. Mock OQE/Conference Presentation

January 2014

- 07 Prof. Stefan Linquist (Planning an Effective Research Program)
14 OQE workshop (Individual Student Projects)
21 OQE workshop (Rough Drafts of Thesis Proposal)
28 OQE workshop (Rough Drafts of Thesis Proposal)

February 2014

- 04 OQE workshop (Rough Drafts of Thesis Proposal)
11 OQE workshop (Rough Drafts of Thesis Proposal)
18 Reading Week -- No Class
25 Mock OQE

March 2014

- 04 Mark McCullagh (Journal Publishing)
11 Mock OQE
18 Mock OQE
25 Mock OQE

April

- 01 Course conclusion