

-Department of Philosophy, University of Guelph-

PHIL 6960: Ph.D. Seminar

Fall 2013/Winter 2014

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

CLASSROOM: MACK 261
TIME: 11:30-12-50

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to facilitate doctoral students in the successful completion of their Ph.D. programs, where this is defined as completing the requirements in a way that leads to a successful career in philosophy. The course is designed to complement the crucial role of the advisor by providing a forum for doctoral 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 meetings (see 'evaluation' below), as well as departmental "Speaker Series" talks, which are a vital part of the profession.

Specifically, the course will focus on the following topics:

1. Preparing for the job market
2. Designing and teaching philosophy courses
3. Constructing a viable research program from the dissertation to tenure
4. Applying for Grants
5. Preparing for the oral qualifying exam (OQE)

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 the Oral Qualifying Examination. In particular, we will work on drafting your thesis proposal, and preparing for the Oral Exam that is associated with this document. The main form this preparation will take is individual participation in mock OQEs, whether as a student or an examiner.

EVALUATION

This course is Pass/Fail. Passing the course requires consistent attendance at 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
4. Draft Thesis Proposal
5. Mock OQE

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.

SCHEDULE

September 2013

- 10: Introduction to the Course
- 17: Prof. John Russon (The Job Market in Academic Philosophy)
- 24: Prof. Andrew Wayne (Academic Search Committees)

October 2013

- 01 Searching for Academic Jobs in Philosophy
- 08 David Hudson (Tools for Advanced Research in Philosophy)*
- 15 SSHRC and OGS application workshop
- 22 Prof. Karen Wendling (Evaluating Students)
- 29 Workshop on Teaching Strategies in Philosophy

November 2013

- 05 Teaching -- Practice Lecture
- 12 Teaching -- Practice Lecture
- 19 Teaching -- Practice Lecture
- 26 Teaching -- Practice Lecture

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

* Please note that this session will take place on the second floor of the Library, in Room 200b. Please bring your SSHRC and/or OGS proposals from last year to this meeting.