

PHIL 6960 Ph.D. Seminar
Tues. Mack Seminar Room 1:00-2:20

Instructor: John Hacker-Wright, Ph.D.
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OVERVIEW

This course is designed to facilitate doctoral students in successful completion of the Ph.D. program, 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.

More concretely, our main topics will be these:

1. Writing for grants/scholarships (e.g., OGS, SSHRC)
2. Writing for the profession (research, presentation, and publication)
3. Designing philosophy courses
4. Preparing for the oral qualifying exam (OQE)
5. Preparing for the job market (e.g., curriculum vitae, cover letters)

In the Fall semester, there will be three main assignments: writing and commenting on drafts of SSHRC/OGS/grant proposals, preparing a curriculum vitae and cover letter, and preparing a course outline preparing an annotated bibliography of your research for your OQE proposal. Class topics will include: writing successful grant proposals; preparing your c.v. and cover letters, . We may also begin discussion of topics relating to teaching, including: getting prepared to teach a course, selecting texts for a course, designing a course, and different methods of presenting and evaluating course material. We also will visit classes taught by successful teachers in the department.

In the winter semester, we will focus on research, teaching and the OQE proposal. Your work for this term will include giving a lecture on material in a 2000-level course (this may be done in the fall semester if you prefer), preparing a conference abstract and manuscript, identifying journals to publish your work, writing a draft of your OQE proposal, defending the OQE proposal in class (a mock Oral Qualifying Exam, or "mOQE" as it is now called), acting as an examiner on one or two mOQEs, and writing short commentaries on all other students' proposals and mOQEs. Draft OQE proposals will circulate one week in advance. Finally, you will pull together your various materials into a complete mock job application for a position selected from *Jobs for Philosophers*.

EVALUATION

This course is Pass/Fail. Passing the course will require 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.)

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

Due Dates for the Fall Semester

- Email draft of your grant/scholarship proposal: Friday, Sept 24 (for discussion in class the following two weeks).
- Written comments on your classmates’ grant/scholarship proposals: Friday Oct 8.
- Curriculum vitae with research abstract: Friday Oct 15
- Select job from JFP and draft of cover letter: Friday Oct 29
- Final cover letter: Friday November 5
- sample course outline: Friday, November 26
- annotated bibliography for your OQE proposal: Monday, December 1