

PHILOSOPHY HONOURS SEMINAR

PHIL 4500*01
Winter 2014
T TH 2:30 – 3:50
MACK 119A

Instructor: Professor A. Wayne
Office: MACK 331
Office hours: Thursday 11:00 – 12:00
and by appointment
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Course outline

This seminar enables students to undertake sustained philosophical research and write a graduate-level research paper. The first half of the course provides a detailed case study in the realism/antirealism debate. It examines the development of our philosophical and scientific understanding of space, time and motion from ancient times to the 19th century. These are among the most important theoretical entities in science. Are they real? The approach of the course is interdisciplinary, combining historical and philosophical perspectives with the scientists' own reflections. Many of the topics introduced in the first half remain active areas of philosophical research today. In the second half of the course students plan, develop and write a research paper, supported by in-class exploration of the relevant philosophical literature from the early 20th century to the present day. This is a 1.00 credit course.

Texts and course materials

- Huggett, Nick, ed., *Space from Zeno to Einstein: Classic Readings with a Contemporary Commentary* (MIT Press, 1999) (in bookstore under PHIL 3170).
- Supplementary and online materials at <http://courselink.uoguelph.ca>. You are responsible for accessing CourseLink regularly. Some course materials and grading comments may only be available on CourseLink.

Course requirements

- 15% Presentation 1 (in part 1 of the course)
- 15% Presentation 2 (in part 1 of the course)
- 10% Paper thesis and argument outline due Feb. 13
- 15% Handout, presentation, paper plan & bibliography due March 11
- 10% Full draft of paper due March 27
- 35% Term paper due April 14

Electronic devices

In order to create a positive learning environment for all participants, this class is conducted in “airplane mode,” which means that certain electronic devices are permitted on board, but with restricted use. Phones and other wireless handheld devices may not be used and must be turned off. Laptop computers and tablets may be used solely for purposes directly related to the course, such as note taking.

Additional support

Students with special needs or requiring additional support are encouraged to speak with me as early in the term as possible to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made.

Tentative schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required reading</u>	<u>Presentation</u>
1. Realism and antirealism about space			
Jan. 7	Realism and antirealism	Hacking (handout)	
Jan. 14	Plato and Euclid	Huggett, Chs. 1 & 2	
Jan. 21	Newton	Huggett, Ch. 7	
Jan. 28	Leibniz and Clarke on substantivalism	Huggett, Ch. 8	
Feb. 4	Leibniz' relationalism	Sklar, pp. 167-181	
Feb. 11	Berkeley's and Mach's relationalism	Huggett, Ch. 9 <i>Paper thesis and argument outline due Feb. 13</i>	
2. Term paper			
Feb. 25	Exploring current literature		
Mar. 4	Exploring current literature		
Mar. 11	Term paper presentations	<i>Handout, presentation, paper plan & bibliography due March 11</i>	
Mar. 18	TBD		
Mar. 25	TBD	<i>Full draft of paper due March 27</i>	
Apr. 1	Editorial meeting	Paper drafts	
		<i>Term paper due April 14</i>	

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 Winter 2014 courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, March 7, 2014. 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>