

College of Arts – Online Course Outline Template

Course Code: PHIL *6950	Section:	Semester: F12 & W13
Course Title: MA Seminar		
Instructor: Karen Houle		
<p>The purpose of the MA seminar is to have a weekly space where students brand new to graduate school have an opportunity to come together as a cohort and grapple with practical & philosophical issues that pertain to graduate-level education in philosophy. The assumption is that in the topic-based graduate seminars students are taking at the same time as the MA seminar, they are reading primary and secondary texts, doing research, performing exegesis, producing critique, & building arguments, and that in the courses they are T.A.'ing they are marking & running tutorials, but, that they don't have a formal opportunity to get together and actually discuss those experiences and the nature of the skills involved within a wider educational framework (philosophy education in general and their own research & teaching paths in particular). Neither do they have much opportunity to work on those skills collectively & systematically outside of the context of producing papers and getting the grading in on time. These weekly meetings are thus intended as a forum to identify and build the skills relevant to meeting challenges they will regularly encounter in order to support to their success and integrity as learners, scholars, active & visible members of a variety of public and professional communities, and as teachers. In the MA seminar we will read & discuss articles on the nature of higher education, and on the ethical dimensions of scholarship. We will hear from other effective scholars and teachers (guest appearances). We will work together on skills such as: reading texts well, analysis, writing for different audiences and venues (abstracts, book reviews, journals), knowing how to reference, finding your way around journals both in terms of what's in them and how to submit to them, team-building across difference (disciplinary idioms, departments, social positions), building in good habits of note taking, preparing questions for discussion, marking papers fairly and quickly, giving feedback to undergraduate students on tests and papers, giving feedback to ones peers, revising work based on input, handling conflict or difficult behavior in the classroom, speaking effectively in public, reading texts aloud, fielding questions from audiences, chairing panels or meetings, hosting symposia.</p> <p>Textbook(s): If known</p> <p>No textbook. A list of assigned texts and a reading schedule will be circulated in the summer</p> <p>Course requirements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will work up a research proposal or statement of interest for the major scholarship (OGS and SSHRC) October deadlines, give & get constructive feedback on their proposals from their peers, rework their proposals- 2. Students will work up a scholarly paper for presentation at a public venue or conference; the paper will be submitted for consideration to a conference and/or presented during the school year; 3. Students will work up a commentary on a scholarly paper or a book for presentation at a public venue or conference, or for inclusion in a review; the commentary will be submitted and/or presented during the school year; 4. Each term, each student will give a brief (5 min) informal talk explaining their major research interests; 5. Each student will choose, circulate, develop discussion questions and lead a discussion on an article centrally-relevant to their MA thesis research; 6. All students will read and give constructive written and oral feedback on all assigned materials; 7. Students will co-organize and co-host a public forum for philosophy. <p>A more detailed description of assignments, their due dates and % value will be circulated in the summer</p>		