

PHIL 4820-01 Philosophy Research Presentation

Fall 2023

Please see WebAdvisor for instructor information.

Undergraduate Calendar description

PHIL*4820 Philosophy Research Presentation Fall and Winter (LEC: 3) [0.50]

The focus of this course is mastering the oral presentation of a philosophical argument, and engaging in respectful, intellectually honest discussion with one's audience. Students will develop and present a philosophical claim which they will explain and defend during a question period after the presentation. Students are expected to have topic for their presentation at the beginning of the course.

Prerequisite(s): 14.00 credits including 1.00 credits in Philosophy at the 3000-level

Restriction(s): Restricted to students in Philosophy major.

Department(s): Department of Philosophy

Location(s): Guelph

Learning outcomes

1. Orally articulate and defend a position on a philosophical topic, either in class discussion or in a formal presentation, that is clear, accurate and well-reasoned.
2. Develop research methods for gathering a wide range of primary and secondary source materials, and synthesize these materials and evaluate their credibility.
3. Demonstrate independence in articulating an original approach to a significant philosophical topic.
4. Write clearly and cogently on complex problems in philosophy.
5. Read extensively and systematically in a specialized area of philosophical research.

Resources

CourseLink The course website is [PHIL 4820-01, Fall 2023](#).

Texts There are no assigned readings for this course. You will do your own reading in order to prepare your presentation.

Meetings Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00-11:20 AM in MacKinnon 342

Office hours I will run my office hours [on Teams, Mondays and Tuesdays 3:30–4:30 pm](#). Office hours are an opportunity for you to drop in and ask questions about the course.

Policies I do not have a scheme for course components being submitted late. If you are unable to complete some work on time, please contact me.

You are responsible for reading the [Standard Statements](#) which cover:

- email communication (if I emailed to your uoguelph.ca address, then you've been told whatever's in that email);
- what to do when you cannot meet a course requirement;
- drop date;
- copies of assignments (keep them!);
- academic misconduct—what it is; what the penalties are;
- recording of materials.

Work

<i>Value</i>	<i>Work component</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>
15%	Pitch	1, 2, 3
2 × 5%	Response to two others' Pitches	4
10%	Prep Meeting	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
15%	First Run presentation	1
2 × 5%	Responses to two others' First Runs	1, 3, 4
30%	Conference presentation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
10%	Contribution to Q & A sessions at Conference	1, 3

Meetings

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00–11:20 am in MacKinnon Building room 342.

Schedule

Week 1: Introductory

The instructor will explain how the course will work, emphasizing that the focus is on doing a philosophical presentation of one's research (rather than doing the research). Instructor will also do scheduling of:

- pitches, each with two respondents
- first runs, each with two respondents (different from the pitch respondents).

The earlier a student's Prep Meeting occurs, the more time they have before First Runs begin. To compensate for this, the order will be (to the extent practical) preserved for First Runs and for the Conference, so that (ideally) each student has the same amount of time between their Prep Meeting and their First Run, and between that and their Conference presentation.

Weeks 2 and 3: The Pitch

Students will present a short (5-minute) pitch of their idea for a research presentation:

- an explanation of the debate to which it contributes
- a preliminary statement of the thesis.

Each pitch will receive a brief response by two designated fellow students. Responses are to focus on helping the speaker to improve their presentation in terms of its philosophical interest and clarity. Throughout these meetings the instructor will make points about presentation skills, e.g. polite handling or posing of questions or objections.

(5 mins Pitch + 2 x 5 mins response) x 20 students = 300 minutes = 5 hours

Weeks 4 and 5: Prep Meeting

Students will meet one-on-one with the instructor to discuss their pitch. The goal is to direct the student to develop a plan for presenting (and, if necessary, further researching) their topic. As always, its accessibility to non-specialists, and the importance of establishing its philosophical interest, will be main focuses.

Week 6: preparation for First Run

No class meetings; students will work on their own (with instructor assistance if requested) on their topic, preparing for a first run of a presentation of their point about it.

Weeks 7, 8, 9: First Run

Students will give a first run (15 minutes) of their presentation. The two designated respondents will:

- listen to it, not having seen a written version beforehand (so they can judge its success as an oral presentation)
- take notes, including a structured summary of the presentation
- make very brief comments (1 or 2 minutes) in class
- write a (one-page) comment on the first run, suggesting areas for improvement. Possible points are improving the presentation's...
 - explanation of the point's philosophical interest
 - situating of the main point in relation to some debate
 - argument for its thesis
 - consideration of possible objections or comparison with competing views

Weeks 11 and 12 (including an extra scheduled meeting if necessary): Conference

Each student will give their presentation and will handle questions from the audience. While all Philosophy Majors will be invited to attend (instructor can ask Department Secretary to send out the invitations), only those students enrolled in this section of the course are required to attend.

The Conference will take place during the regularly scheduled class meetings in these weeks.