



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 603 Lec 01
Graduate Proseminar
Fall Term 2014

Thursday 3:30-6:00 pm in SS1253

Course Outline

Instructor: Marc Ereshefsky
Phone: 403-220-3162
Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Objective

The aim of this seminar is to sharpen one's research, writing, and professional skills. We will focus on how to write a scholarship proposal, construct a C.V., give a research presentation, identify a promising research topic, as well as write a research proposal, abstract, and paper.

Course Work

Scholarship Proposal Workshops The first workshop will provide tips on writing a successful scholarship proposal for SSHRC and the University Open Scholarship competition. The second workshop will give feedback on PhD students' proposals. The third workshop will give feedback on MA students' proposals.

Curriculum Vitae How to write an academic C.V. and then constructing your own.

Topic Identification A two page description of the topic you plan to research and write a paper on in this seminar. Not only describe the topic but also explain why you think it would be a promising topic to work on. On a third page, provide a bibliography of at least three sources. For each source, add a sentence or two saying why it is a good source for the topic.

Research Proposal The proposal consists of two parts. The first part explains and motivates the focus of your research by answering these questions: (i) What is the general topic area? (ii) What are the main views on the topic? (iii) What will be your focus in that area? The second part of the proposal contains a section-by-section outline of how you plan to construct your research paper. Dedicate a paragraph describing each section of the proposed paper. This outline will serve as your research plan. The proposal should be no more than 5 pages long. Devote at least 3 pages to the first part of the proposal. Also attach a bibliography.

Research Paper: The word maximum is 6,000 words (including footnotes, excluding the bibliography and any diagram notation).

Research Presentation Present your research results to the class. The presentation should be approximately 15 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion. You will not have enough time to present your entire research but only parts of it. In your presentation clearly introduce the problem you are working on, explain why it needs work, and say what sort of contribution you are making to the topic. Do not read your presentation, but give it as a talk, as though you were teaching a class. You are not required to use PowerPoint (or some other media package), but the use PowerPoint (or such) is strongly suggested.

Abstract Write an abstract (between 100 and 200 words) concerning your research project. That abstract will be distributed to class before your presentation. The abstract should give your audience a good idea of the subject matter of your presentation without their being experts on that topic.

Presentation Report Write a two page report of four research presentations. Dedicate a half of a page to each of those presentations, listing what you think are the pros and cons of that presentation. This can be done in point form.

Due Dates and Grading

No late assignments will be accepted without an appropriate excuse.

No registrar scheduled final will be given.

Due Dates and Point Values

Topic Identification	Oct. 20	10 pts
Research Proposal	Nov. 3	15 pts
Curriculum Vitae	Nov. 13	5 pts
Abstract	Nov. 24	10 pts
Research Presentation	Nov. 27 - Dec. 4	15 pts
Research Paper	Dec. 11	40 pts
Presentation Report	Dec. 11	5 pts

Final grades will be awarded as follows

96-100 = A+	75-79 = B	55-59 = C-
90-95 = A	70-74 = B-	50-54 = D+
85-89 = A-	65-69 = C+	45-49 = D
80-84 = B+	60-64 = C	below 45 = F

Readings

Articles are available in e-journals and books accessible through the University Library website.

- Putnam, Hilary 1975. "Is Semantics Possible," in *Mind Language and Reality; Philosophical Papers*, Volume 2, Cambridge University Press, pp. 102-118.
- Dupré, John 1981. "Natural Kinds and Biological Taxa," *The Philosophical Review*, 90, pp. 66-90.
- Hacking, Ian 1991. "A Tradition of Natural Kinds," *Philosophical Studies*, 61, pp. 109-126.

Style and Citation Requirements

- All written work for this course should be submitted as hard copies. Work must be double-spaced, with 12 point font and 1 inch margins.
- Whenever you quote someone, provide the source and page numbers from that source. Here's an example:
Dr. Black writes that "all kittens are incredibly cute" (1993, p. 46).
'(1993, p. 46)' refers to the article or book and page number where Dr. Black says that. Place detailed information about the article or book in your bibliography.
- Whenever you attribute a view or idea to a person, provide the source and page number where that claim is made. Here's an example: Dr. White likes kittens, but argues that puppies are far cuter (1994, p. 333).
- Use the following method for listing articles and books in your bibliography.

Smith, D. (1997) "A Theory of Cats," *Philosophy of Science* 44: 60-88.

Smith, D. (1998) *A New Theory of Cats*, Blackwell Publishers.

Smith, D. (1992) "A Theory of Great Cats," in J. Armstrong (ed.) *An Anthology on Theories of Great Cats*, Oxford University Press, 60-88.

Canto, P. (2006). "A Theoretical Discussion of Cats." <http://ohiou.edu/CatTheory>.

The first entry is for an article, the second for a book, the third for a chapter in an edited book, and the fourth for a web site.