

Course Title	: Final-Year Research Seminar
Course Code	: PHI4001
Recommended Study Year	: 4 th Year
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional and Small Group Supervision
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Programme	: Capstone requirement
Discipline	: -
Prerequisite(s)	: -
Co-requisite(s)	: N/A
Exclusion(s)/Restriction(s)	: This course is available to Year 4 (final year) Philosophy Major students only
Exemption Requirement(s)	: N/A

Brief Course Description

This course will focus on consolidating and further developing students' skills to pursue an independent research project. Thematic content will vary with instructor and term, and students will be provided with intensive knowledge of some special topic in philosophy.

Aims

Students in this course will acquire in-depth knowledge in a specific topic in philosophy and skills in doing independent research, constructing an extended philosophical argument and situating it against existing arguments in the literature, and presenting philosophical ideas and problems orally.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to know how to:

- (1) Identify a philosophical problem of interest
- (2) Conduct in independent research in philosophy
- (3) Construct an extended philosophical argument
- (4) Improve a work of research in response to criticism
- (5) Provide constructive criticism to the work of others

Indicative Content

This will vary according to the seminar topic chosen by the instructor and the student's individual choice of research topic.

Teaching Method

The first half of the semester will consist of seminar meetings in which the students discuss assigned readings and engage in peer review of each other's work. The second half will consist of meetings with smaller groups (of approximately 4 to 5 students) to discuss progress on the students' research, along with two peer-review sessions in which students discuss shorter drafts with each other.

Sample Breakdown:

- Week 1-6: Regular seminars
- Week 7: Small group meetings
- Week 8: Small group meetings
- Week 9: Peer review session for draft paper 1
- Week 10: Small group meetings
- Week 11: Small group meetings
- Week 12: Peer review session for draft paper 2
- Week 13: Small group meetings

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Students' progress toward meeting these learning outcomes will be measured by:

- (1) A substantial research paper of approximately 4000 words. (LO's 1, 2, 3, and 4)
- (2) Two short draft papers (of approximately 1000 words each). (LO's 1, 2, 3, and 4)
- (3) Peer feedback on classmates' draft papers. (LO 5)
- (4) Regular seminar participation. (LO's 2 and 3)

Evaluation of the essay and final paper will be based on either the Philosophy Department Standard Grading Rubrics (see attachment), or replacement rubrics chosen by the instructor and approved by the department board.

Assessment

Research paper – 60%

Draft papers – 15%

Constructive peer criticism – 10%

Class Participation – 15%

Required Readings

TBA. The instructor of each seminar will select a set of common readings for the first half of the semester centering on the theme of the seminar; students will select additional readings in carrying out their research for the second half.

*Multiple sections of this course will be offered every spring, in order to keep enrollment to no more than 15 students. Each section will have a different theme according to the instructor's interests and expertise. The department will attempt to place students in their preferred section, to the extent this is compatible with maintaining a balanced distribution of students among the sections. Students shall choose paper topics consistent with the theme of their assigned seminar.

Important Notes

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>