

Philosophy 450—Senior Directed Study
Wofford College

Fall 2010

Instructors:	e-mail:	office:	phone:
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Class Time/Location:

Mondays 2:30-5:30pm; Philosophy Seminar Room (DB 218)

Course Description:

The purpose of this seminar is to guide you through the process of preparing your senior paper. The paper will be written in consultation with your chosen advisor. In addition to scheduled seminar meetings, it is important that you meet with your advisor at regular intervals. The course also provides instruction in public speaking to help you with the public reading and defense of your paper at the end of the semester. Normally students are informed of their grade shortly after their defense.

Required Text:

Seech—*Writing Philosophy Papers* (4/e)
(available from the department at a cost of \$5 each)

Seminar Objectives:

Students will:

1. increase their knowledge and understanding of some topic in philosophy.
2. develop their ability to conduct research in philosophy.
3. develop their ability to construct a coherent, lengthy argument.
4. improve their critical reading, writing, and thinking skills.

Seminar Grade Calculation:

15% for regular progress with advisor and participation throughout the seminar
50% for the finished paper
35% for the defense

In order to earn an A for the seminar portion, you must have no more than one absence from a general meeting, complete all assignments on time, and meet all appointments and deadlines established with your advisor. If you fail to meet the above requirements, your class grade will be a B or lower. You cannot receive a B if you miss more than two classes, and you cannot receive a C if you miss more than three classes.

DUE DATE: A final draft of your paper must be turned in to your advisor by 5 pm on Monday, December 6th. Papers not turned in by this deadline will be marked down one letter grade for each 24-hour period they are late. Papers will not be accepted after Friday, December 10th at 5 pm.

The grade of Incomplete is reserved for special cases, and will be granted only with supporting documentation (such as illness or family crisis) provided through the Dean of Students Office. Failure to complete the course for other unexcused reasons will appropriately earn a grade of F. Philosophy 450 will not be offered in the Spring Term. Students who receive an F and still wish to graduate with a Philosophy major must repeat the course in the summer or the following Fall.

As with all academic work at Wofford College, this course is subject to all provisions of the Honor Code. Students should consult the code and their professor if there are any questions about its application.

Schedule:

You should meet often with your paper advisor (once every week or two) to ensure that your progress accords with the deadlines indicated below. In addition, you are responsible to bring to each meeting new ideas, questions, and/or comments about your research project.

9/13 Topic statement, Brainstorming and planning (Williams)

By this first meeting all students should have selected a topic, met with advisors, and registered for the course. Prior to the meeting, please submit a one-paragraph statement naming your topic and your reasons for pursuing it to Prof. Williams. During the meeting, we will discuss the course and brainstorm about various ways of pursuing the topics. (Seech, ch. 1-2)

9/20 Library Tour (Bednar; meet in library)

We will meet with the librarians to learn more about facilities and services available and discuss topics and research strategies.

9/27 Bibliography and Documentation (Dinkins)

Prior to the meeting, please submit a preliminary bibliography of sources for your research to Prof. Dinkins. We will discuss documentation form, Zotero, the Honor Code and TurnItIn. (Seech, ch 7-8)

10/4 Writing and Revising (Michelman)

We will continue to discuss topics and approaches as well as the process of writing and revising papers. (Seech, ch. 3-5)

10/18 Argument and Discussion (Keller)

We will discuss progress of the papers, the nature and purpose of arguments, and any further issues and problems in students' research. (Seech, ch. 6 and Appendix C)

11/15 About the Defense (Kay)

We will discuss the format and purpose of the defense, the role of public speaking, and continue to share thoughts about the papers.