

**PHIL 471H**  
**Thesis Workshop**

9:00 – 9:50 T & Th  
250C SC

Instructor: Beata Stawarska  
Office Hours: 2:30-3:20 T & Th  
Office: 247 SC  
Phone: 346-5545  
E-mail: stawarsk@uoregon.edu

**Course Description:**

This two credit fall seminar required for all Philosophy students planning to write an Honors Thesis and graduate with honors in the Philosophy Department meets two hours weekly and serves as a thesis workshop. The course includes presentations by philosophy faculty and advanced graduate students, and discussions of how they develop, research and write philosophical papers. Students will work on developing their own honors theses and will present their work in class. By the end of the term, students will have prepared a prospectus for an honors thesis with an annotated bibliography (though this may not be the final version) and will have found an adviser for the project. To enroll, students must have completed at least 12 credits of upper division coursework in philosophy and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 or instructor's permission.

**Texts:**

Readings for the faculty presentations will include draft chapters of a book in progress, a selection of recently published articles or chapters of a book.

Readings for the annotated bibliography will be determined in light of each student's research interest. Texts will include journal articles, book chapters, and larger philosophical works.

**Course Information:**

Meeting with Instructor: I ask that you meet with me briefly during the first or second week of the quarter (if you have not done so already) so that I may have an opportunity to learn about your interests.

Readings: You are responsible for all of the required readings each week. In addition to these readings, you are expected to pursue secondary readings on the course material in support of your own interests, the précis, and the final paper.

Assignments: Details of the graded assignments will be discussed in class and guidelines will be distributed at that time. The assignments include an "intellectual autobiography," an annotated bibliography, and thesis proposal.

Grading: See the distribution of graded work below. Improvement in graded work will count positively in calculating your final grade. Incompletes will not be granted, except in the case of an emergency. Students registered P/NP grading must earn the equivalent of a C- grade in order to receive a grade of P.

UG Assessment type	% of grade	UG Description (if any)
Attendance and Participation	10%	Students must attend all classes and participate in most discussions to receive full credit.
Autobiography	10%	No longer than five pages.
Annotated Bibliography	25%	Full bibliographic citations and annotation (approximately one paragraph each) for at least 15 articles or chapters.
Draft Proposal	20%	Draft proposal of 5 pages (not including bibliography)
Final Proposal and presentation	35%	Draft proposal of 8 pages (not including bibliography) and oral presentation.
TOTAL	100%	

Note that the schedule of readings is subject to change during the quarter. All changes will be announced in advance during class. If you have questions about the assignments, requirements, or subject matter, please let me know. If you have special needs due to a disability, please talk with me as soon as possible so that your needs can be addressed.

### **Schedule of Topics and Readings:**

The discussion topics will focus on how philosophical research and writing are done. The course will feature three presentations by department faculty who work in different areas of philosophy. The emphasis in each case will be on how the faculty member has conceived, researched and written a major project. Students will be provided with some short selections from the faculty work to serve as an orientation to each presentation.

Other class meetings will focus on aspects of writing a major research paper. The first such class will focus students' thinking about their various areas of philosophical interest and which areas they are likely to choose for their honors thesis. The next class (and outside assignment) will focus on developing a reading list/bibliography for the subject area selected by the student. The third class (and assignment) will be to prepare an initial draft of an honors thesis proposal, followed by a class focused on discussing the proposal with others in order to think through its argument and support. This discussion will involve both small group discussion in class and some out-of-class meetings as well. Students will present their proposal during the last two class sessions.

Week 1 (09/29- 10/5):	T. Introduction: rationale and organization of the workshop. Brief introductions of the participants. Assigned Reading for Tue, 10/7: past honors theses in philosophy (available on Blackboard). Guidelines for first out of class assignment: a philosophical
-----------------------------	---

	<p>/intellectual autobiography (and how your thesis project might fit). Due ahead of the Thursday 10/9 class (see below).</p> <p>Th. Presentation on research methods and library resources by Paul Frantz, head specialist in Philosophy [Secondary literature, bibliographies, searching for sources, record keeping]  <b>NOTE: class meets in Edmiston Classroom, room 144, Knight library.</b></p>
<p>Week 2 (10/6-12):</p>	<p>T. Learning by example – discussion of successful honors theses in philosophy; general expectations for an honors thesis and academic writing; varieties of philosophical method.</p> <p><b>Electronic copy of the philosophical /intellectual autobiography due by Midnight on Tuesday 10/7 (email to: stawarsk@uoregon.edu)</b></p> <p>Participants begin research for an annotated bibliography (preliminary draft due Week 4); Guidelines for preliminary annotated bibliography.</p> <p>Th. Student presentations, group discussion and feedback on the first out of class assignment: a philosophical/intellectual autobiography. <b>Students read their fellow participants' autobiographies ahead of the Thursday 10/9 class (e-copies available on Blackboard).</b></p>
<p>Week 3 (10/13-19)</p>	<p>T. Presentation: Philosophy faculty member Prof. Naomi Zack to discuss her research project. Reading: 2-3 articles or book chapters representing work of the faculty member making the presentation.</p> <p>Th. Learning by example – discussion of philosophy faculty research.</p>
<p>Week 4 (10/20-26): SPEP</p>	<p>Presentation: Advanced Grads in Philosophy (TBA) to discuss their research project. Reading: 2-3 conference papers, articles or book chapters representing work of the Grads making the presentation.</p> <p>Th. Learning by example – discussion of Grad research (Instructor at SPEP conference).</p>
<p>Week 5 (10/27-11/2):</p>	<p>Presentation of first draft of preliminary annotated bibliography related to an area of interest. A typical bibliography will include 12 – 15 articles of chapters and brief summaries of each. The preliminary draft should include at least six articles and summaries.</p>
<p>Week 6 (11/3-9):</p>	<p>T. Presentation: Visiting Prof. of Philosophy &amp; Biology Nicolae Morar to discuss his research project. Reading: 2-3 articles or book</p>

	chapters representing work of the faculty member making the presentation. Th. Learning by example – discussion of philosophy professor’s research
Week 7 (11/10-16):	Preparing a Thesis Proposal, out of class assignment to develop an initial draft of the proposal for discussion. Reading outside class will continue to complete the annotated bibliography.
Week 8 (11/17-23):	Small group discussions of proposals, out of class assignment to continue discussion of proposals, prepare a presentation draft. Students will prepare proposal drafts for discussion.
Week 9 (11/24-30):	In class thesis presentations.
Week 10 (12/1-7):	In class thesis presentations.

**Learning outcomes:**

by the end of the term, the students should have acquired a set of skills necessary for pursuing independent research in philosophy, notably searching for relevant sources (primary and secondary literature), compiling a bibliography, and developing a philosophical claim to be supported in the actual thesis and during the thesis defense; they will have researched and developed a précis of their honors thesis, with a chapter-by-chapter narrative description.

The following rubric reflects the general standards of the Philosophy Department at the University of Oregon as approved by the faculty.

**A** = excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other.

**B** = good. No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way.

**C** = OK. Some errors, but a basic grasp of the material.

**D** = poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.

**F** = failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or a complete lack of effort.

Please note: what counts as “excellent” or “OK,” for example, depends in part upon the nature and level of the class in question.

**Exam/Paper Grading**

92% or above

A

90-92%

A-

87-89%	B+	70-72%	C-
83-86%	B	67-69%	D+
80-82%	B-	63-66%	D
77-79%	C+	60-62%	D-
73-76%	C	0-59%	F

Students registered with the P/NP grading option must receive at least 70% in order to receive a P.

### **Statement Regarding Sexual Violence**

The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. Please be aware that all UO employees are required reporters. This means that if you tell me about a situation, I may have to report the information to my supervisor or the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO's 24-hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at [safe.uoregon.edu](http://safe.uoregon.edu).