

PHIL7000: DISSERTATION SEMINAR

INSTRUCTOR: Jennifer M. Morton (jmmorton@sas.upenn.edu)
DATE/TIME: Tuesdays 1.45-3:15pm
LOCATION: Williams 27 (<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/92820140733>)
STUDENT HOURS: By appointment (I'll be in my office Cohen 426 most Tuesdays from 10am-12pm)

COURSE OBJECTIVES (What this course will aim to enable you to do):

- Develop your presentation skills. Discover what kind of presentation style works for you and practice it. Learn how to work through your nerves and get comfortable talking through your ideas in front of a room of fellow philosophers.
- Practice your 'on your feet' thinking during Q&A. This is one of those philosophical skills that looks 'natural' but is the product of LOTS and LOTS of practice. How can you deal with unexpected questions? How can you use questions to provide you with an opportunity to deepen and expand on the point you made in your presentation? What do you do when you don't have a good answer on hand?
- Learn to **receive** feedback and use it to improve your written work and your presentations. What is the best way for you to record the feedback you received? What feedback should you take to heart, and what feedback should you ignore?
- Learn to **provide** helpful feedback and ask **well-formed questions**. For example, what is a good question during Q&A? How do you ask the best version of your question?
- Practice being a **professional** philosopher. What does this look like for you?

DESCRIPTION: This is a seminar to support all doctorate students in their 3rd year and beyond in developing and presenting their dissertation projects. Look at the course objectives above and ensure that you intentionally practice at least one of those skills at every meeting.

ASSESSMENTS: Presentation + Participation

PARTICIPATION (ALL): How well (or badly) this course goes will depend on every person in this class taking ownership for the course. This means that I expect all of you to contribute to the discussion in some way. Talking in seminar is only one way to participate in the discussion, others include e-mailing me with questions you'd like to see discussed before class, listening to others respectfully, helping a classmate make a point, continuing the discussion with your fellow students outside of class, and coming to my office when the class discussion sparks an idea that you want to discuss. In class discussion, I expect you to do a lot of *listening* as well as *participating* in a way that is *responsive* to your peers. Be mindful of the class dynamics and aim to include your peers in the discussion, rather than talking just to me.

COVID (ALL): We will follow the university's guidance as to mode of teaching, mask-wearing, etc. Masks are optional and required when you have had a known exposure or feel any symptoms (cough, sneezing, etc.). If you are feeling unwell, let me know, and I will arrange for you to zoom into class. Even as we get back to 'normal', I expect that some of you will be touched by this pandemic during this semester, whether it is health-wise, financially, or psychologically. Do not hesitate to reach out and tell me what you need. Your physical and mental health is a priority. I will do my best to connect you to resources and to be flexible about class expectations. We are all in this together. There might be times when we have to meet online in order to keep us all safe. I will only resort to this when circumstances absolutely demand it. If we keep lines of communication open and we all remain flexible, we will have a great semester.

HONOR CODE (ALL): All students are expected to follow the guidelines of Penn's Code of Academic Integrity. In particular, students are expected to refrain from "lying, cheating, or stealing" in an academic context (but it's also probably good to avoid doing these things in general). If you are unsure about which actions violate that honor code, please consult <https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity>. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Always cite any resource that you use (including friends with whom you have worked if cooperation is permitted on an assignment). Do not reuse papers written for other classes. The internet has made it easier than ever before to catch this sort of thing, so (moral reasons aside) it is not a particularly wise idea.

BASIC NEEDS SUPPORT (ALL): It is important to me that you have the resources you need to be able to focus on learning in this course – this includes both the necessary academic materials as well as taking care of your day-to-day needs. Students experiencing difficulty affording the course materials should reach out to the Penn First Plus office (pennfirstplus@upenn.edu). Students who are struggling to afford sufficient food to eat every day and/or lack a safe and suitable space to live should contact Student Intervention Services (vpul-sisteam@pobox.upenn.edu). Students may also wish to contact their Financial Aid Counselor or Academic Advisor about these concerns. You are welcome to notify me if any of these challenges are affecting your success in this course, as long as you are comfortable doing so – I can help you access the resources Penn has available for you.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT (ALL): The Weingarten Center offers a variety of resources to support all Penn students in reaching their academic goals. All services are free and confidential. To contact the Weingarten Center, call 215-573-9235. The office is located in Stouffer Commons at 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300.

DISABILITY SERVICES (ALL): The University of Pennsylvania provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who have self-identified and received approval from Disability Services. Students can contact Disability Services and make appointments to discuss and/or request accommodations by calling 215-573-9235.

Presentation Date	1:45-2.30pm	2:30-3.15pm
30-Aug	Intro Session for enrolled students	Alexander Tolbert
6-Sep	Mike Gadowski	
13-Sep	Tiina Rosenqvist	
20-Sep	Hanyu Ma	
27-Sep	Sara Purinton	Tyler Re
4-Oct	Vanessa Schipani	
11-Oct	Kate Nicole Hoffman	
18-Oct	Eugene Vaynberg	
25-Oct	Yosef Washington	
1-Nov	Clarissa Busch	Zachary Agoff
8-Nov	Youngbin Yoon	Raul Ibarra
15-Nov	Matthew Solomon	
22-Nov	Jesse Hamilton	Samantha Fritz
29-Nov	Lisa Martinez	Jacqui Wallis
6-Dec	Maja Sidzinska	