



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 603 Lec 01
Graduate Proseminar
Fall 2016**

Thursday 3:30-6:15 pm in SS 1253

Course Outline

Instructor: Richard Zach
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Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Objectives

The aim of this seminar is to sharpen your 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.

Required Course Work

Two Short Writing Assignments. You will have to complete two short writing assignments of up to 250 words each. These will be on one of the assigned readings.

Curriculum Vitae. We'll discuss how to write an academic C.V.; and then you will construct yours.

Topic Identification. You will write description of 300-500 words of the topic you plan to research and write a paper on in this seminar. You will describe the topic and also explain why you think it would be a promising topic to work on. On a separate 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.

Scholarship Proposal. You will write a scholarship proposal which you will use to apply for SSHARC and GAC competitions.

Research Proposal. You will write a research proposal of up to 1,250 words (approx. 5 pages) plus a bibliography. 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. Devote at least 750 words (approx. 3 pages) to the first part of the proposal. Also attach a bibliography.

Research Paper. Your final assignment will be a research paper of up to 6,000 words (including footnotes, excluding the bibliography). Your paper must be written especially for the Proseminar and may not be used to satisfy a requirement for another class.

Research Presentation. You will 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 presentation package), but I strongly suggest you do use it.

Abstract. You will write an abstract (between 100 and 150 words) for 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. You will write a two page report on 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.

Assignments will be due, and contribute to the final grade, as follows:

Short Writing Assignment 1	Sept 29	5%
Short Writing Assignment 2	Oct 13	5%
Topic Identification	Oct 17	5%
Scholarship Proposal	Oct 24	5%
Research Proposal	Nov 7	15%
Curriculum Vitae	Nov 24	5%
Abstract	Nov 28	5%
Research Presentation	Dec 1 & 7	10%
Research Paper	Dec 12	40%
Presentation Report	Dec 12	5%

Assignments will be graded using letter grades and converted to GPA values.

A+ = 4.3	B = 3.0	C- = 1.7
A = 4.0	B- = 2.7	D+ = 1.3
A- = 3.7	C+ = 2.3	D = 1.0
B+ = 3.3	C = 2.0	F = 0.0

Final grades will be determined by averaging the GPA values and assigning a letter grade as follows:

> 4.2 = A+	> 2.9 = B	> 1.6 = C-
> 3.9 = A	> 2.6 = B-	> 1.2 = D+
> 3.6 = A-	> 2.2 = C+	> 0.9 = D
> 3.2 = B+	> 1.9 = C	≤ 0.9 = F

Class Schedule and Due Dates

Date	Class Schedule	Assignment Due
Week 1 (Sept 15)	- Class Introduction - How to pick a research topic - Scholarship Proposal Workshop Part 1	
Week 2 (Sept 22)	- Discuss first reading	
Week 3 (Sept 29)	- Scholarship Proposal Workshop Part 2	- Short writing assignment #1
Week 4 (Oct 6)	- Discuss second reading	
Week 5 (Oct 13)	- Discuss third reading	- Short writing assignment #2
Week 6 (Oct 20)	- Library skills - Meet to discuss research topics individually	- Topic Identification due Oct 17 (Monday)
Week 7 (Oct 27)	- How to write a research paper proposal - Scholarship Proposal Workshop Part 3	- Scholarship proposal drafts due Oct 24 (Monday)
Week 8 (Nov 3)	- Meet to discuss research paper proposals individually. No class.	
Nov 10	- No class (reading days)	- Research Paper Proposal due Nov 7 (Monday)
Week 9 (Nov 17)	- How to write CVs - How to write abstracts	- Final scholarship proposals due Nov 14 (Monday)
Week 10 (Nov 24)	- How to give presentations	- CV due
Week 11 (Dec 1)	- Research Presentations	- Abstract due Nov 28 (Monday)
Week 12 (Dec 7)	- Research Presentations	
Dec 12 (Monday)		- Research Paper - Presentation Report

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf