

## PHIL 591 (A01): Research Methods Seminar

Monday & Thursday, 10:00-11:20

Clearihue B315

CRN: 12641



This seminar is designed for graduate students in philosophy to strengthen their research, writing, and communication skills. We will begin by discussing what it's like to be part of the profession of philosophy, and how to think about making a contribution to philosophical literature. We will then read a series of award-winning articles in philosophy, followed by 'hot of the press' articles, on a range of different topics. We will study them not only for content but also research excellence. Throughout the course, students will apply what they are learning in class about writing in philosophy to their own work.



Dr. Katie Stockdale ([katiestockdale@uvic.ca](mailto:katiestockdale@uvic.ca))  
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy



My office hours are Monday & Thursday, 11:30-12:30 and by appointment.  
You can find me in Clearihue B312.



You are welcome to visit me in office hours any time. If you cannot make my office hours, please email me to request an appointment. I do my very best to reply to emails within 24 hours (excluding weekends).



This course is *in-person only*. Class attendance is required and classes will not be recorded.



Our course website is on Brightspace. All required readings are there, along with assignment instructions/submission.

*Territory Acknowledgement:* We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

## Evaluation:

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A	B	C	D	F
Superior	Good	Adequate	Minimal	Inadequate
90-100 (A+)	77-79 (B+)	65-69 (C+)	50-59	0-49
85-89 (A)	73-76 (B)	60-64 (C)		
80-84 (A-)	70-72 (B-)			



### **Required Course Components:**

Research Reflection	5%
Critical Response Paper	15%
Paper Proposal	15%
Writing Check-In	5%
Paper Progress Presentation	20%
Final Paper	30%
Participation	10%

*Failure to submit at least 80% of required course components, and/or missing 6+ classes, will result in a grade of N.*



All students have 5 allotted grace points. A 'grace point' delays the due date of a written assignment by one day. Grace points can be used in any combination without justification but cannot be reused or traded. To use grace points, clearly indicate the number used with your assignment submission. Students are responsible for tracking the number of grace points used (I also track them). Any attempt to re-use grace points in the hope that I will not notice will result in a deduction of 5% in addition to whatever late penalty applies.

Other requests for extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances and must be made using UVIC's 'Grade Extension (INC) Form'.<sup>1</sup> All other late work after grace points are used will be penalized 5% per day until the assignment is submitted.

*Note on extensions for students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL):* Because there is already flexibility built into the course for assignment due dates, CAL students are expected to use grace points *before* asking for further extensions, and to follow the standard course policy on requesting additional extensions (i.e., using UVic's 'Grade Extension Inc Form'). Students can indicate that they are requesting additional extensions as per their CAL accommodations. However, please note that accommodations through CAL are not blanket extensions on all work or a license to submit work after the course has ended.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/forms-policies/data/accessible\\_inc-grades-form.pdf](https://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/forms-policies/data/accessible_inc-grades-form.pdf).

## Other Course & University Policies:

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Students with diverse learning styles and needs are very welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that requires accommodation, please approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Accessible Learning as soon as possible.<sup>2</sup> Students who require academic accommodations must be registered with CAL to receive them.



Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are serious offences and will not be tolerated. It is students' responsibility to fully understand rules of academic integrity.<sup>3</sup> Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or suspension. The University's policy on academic integrity is not limited to plagiarism. Hiring an editor without the instructor's approval, submitting a paper from the Internet, and having someone else write even parts of your paper are examples of academic dishonesty. You should review this policy in detail.<sup>4</sup>

You may not use GenAI at all in this course, for any reason, for the purposes of brainstorming, writing, or editing your assignments. You are here to learn how to think, create, evaluate and communicate. The assignments in my courses are designed to teach *you* these skills. I trust that all students in my courses will honour this policy.



All course materials are made available for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in this class. Material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with ©. Any further use or distribution of materials requires written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act.<sup>5</sup> Violations may result in disciplinary action under the Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy.<sup>6</sup> Evidence that you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Philosophy Department Chair.



The University is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. Racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment will not be tolerated. By logging into UVic's learning systems and interacting with online resources you are engaging in a university activity. All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy. Students and staff are expected to be familiar with University policies, including the Tri-Faculty's *Standards for Professional Behaviour*.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For further information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/info/accessibility/index.php>

<sup>3</sup> For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/help/citation/plagiarism/index.php>

<sup>4</sup> For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/index.php>

<sup>5</sup> For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/featured/copyright/>

<sup>6</sup> For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/assets/docs/policies/AC1300.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/services/advising/advice-support/academic-units/student-code-of-conduct/index.php>

**Course Schedule:****Welcome!**

Sept. 5 Welcome! No readings.

**Setting the Stage.**

Sept. 9 Alasdair MacIntyre, "On Not Knowing Where You Are Going"  
Sept. 12 Alison Jaggar, "Academic Philosophy: What Is It? What Do We Want it to Be?"

**Doing Philosophy**

Sept. 16 Penelope A. Rush, "Myriad Philosophical Methodologies"  
Sept. 19 Mary Midgley, "Philosophical Plumbing"  
**Research Reflection due September 20, 11:59pm to Brightspace.**

Sept. 23 John Lysaker, "Writing as Praxis"  
Sept. 26 Helen De Cruz, "In The Mood: Why Vibes Matter in Reading and Writing Philosophy"

**Award-Winning  
Philosophy &  
Philosophers**

Sept. 30 *No class. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.*  
Oct. 3 C. Thi Nguyen, "Games and the Art of Agency"  
*Awarded the 2020 American Philosophical Association Article Prize.*

Oct. 7 Colin Macleod, "Just Schools and Good Childhoods: Non-preparatory Dimensions of Educational Justice"  
*1 of 5 papers for which Macleod won the 2020 Israel Scheffler Prize in Philosophy of Education.*  
Oct. 10 Jennifer Nagel, "Intuition, Reflection, and the Command of Knowledge"  
*Nagel was awarded the 2023 Ernest Sosa Prize for her substantial achievement in epistemology.*  
**Critical Response Paper due October 11, 11:59pm.**

Oct. 14 *No class. Thanksgiving Day.*  
Oct. 17 Kenneth Walden, "Art and Moral Revolution"  
*Awarded the 2018 Arthur Danto/American Society for Aesthetics Prize.*

**Hot of the Press  
(in past 5 years)**

Oct. 21 Kate Manne, Ch. 1 & 2 of *Down Girl: The Logic of Misogyny.*  
*Awarded the 2019 American Philosophical Association Book Prize.*

Oct. 24 Ryan Preston-Roedder (2023), "Divine and Mortal Loves"

Oct. 28 Monima Chadha (2021), "Eliminating Selves as Persons"  
Oct. 31 Amy Kind (2024), "The Impoverishment Problem"

Nov. 4 Andrew Huddleston (2021), "Ressentiment"  
Nov. 7 Jeremy Snyder (2024), "Exploitation Without Fairness"  
**Paper Proposal Due November 8, 11:59pm.**

Nov. 11 *No class. Remembrance Day.*  
Nov. 14 Kayla Wiebe and Amy Mullin (2024), "Choosing Death in Unjust Conditions"  
Timothy Christie and Madeline Li (2024), "Medically Assisted Dying in Canada and Unjust Social Conditions: A Response to Wiebe and Mullin"

**Writing Progress**

Nov. 18 Faculty paper progress presentation (Dr. Stockdale or another volunteer).  
Nov. 21 Student paper progress presentations – TBD.

Nov. 25 Student paper progress presentations – TBD.  
Nov. 28 Student paper progress presentations – TBD.  
**Writing Check-In due Friday Nov. 29, 11:59pm.**

Dec. 2 Students decide on topic.  
**Final Paper due Friday Dec. 6, 11:59pm.**