Common Seminar

1. General information

Instructors

	Room	Email
Russell Friedman (coordinator)	Kardinaal Mercierplein 2, room 02.06	russell.friedman@kuleuven.be
Nicola Polloni		nicola.polloni@kuleuven.be
Felix Bender		felix.bender@kuleuven.be
Alberto Kobec		alberto.kobec@kuleuven.be
Serena Masolini		sere.masolini@kuleuven.be

Code: W0R00A
Credits: 4 EC
Term: Fall 2021
Time: Wednesday, 9 am -12 pm + two evenings (see schedule)
Room: **A** (Kardinaal Mercierplein 2) **unless indicated otherwise** (see schedule, below)
Office hours: By appointment (send an email)

2. Set-up and requirements

This seminar prepares the student for a range of crucial aspects of an academic career in philosophy. The meetings are intended (1) to provide information on a variety of relevant subjects; (2) to teach students how to write abstracts, articles, grant proposals, personal statements and a c.v.; and (3) to teach students how to give oral presentations. When possible, the results of the assignments will be discussed in class. Students will receive feedback on all assignments.

The sessions will take around 2 – 2,5 hours, but 3 hours if necessary. In a number of cases the more formal part of the session will be followed by conversations among students (two by two) about the material of that week and/or the assignments (either drafts or graded versions).

3. Exam

The exam consists in 4 written assignments and 2 oral presentations. They will not be graded, but in order to pass the exam, students **must receive a 'pass' for all assignments and oral presentations**. If assignments are submitted after the deadline without good reasons, they will not be graded. **Attendance is obligatory**: only one absence without a valid reason is permitted.

Students who **miss two classes** or more, must have an excuse from the HIW ombuds (i.e., requiring a valid reason and supporting documentation) or cannot pass the exam.

The written assignments can only be resubmitted during the third exam period (which is in August). This is to say they **cannot** be resubmitted during the first or second term. **The oral presentations cannot be retaken during the third exam period**. All details about the assignments will be posted on Toledo. The assignments need to be submitted through Toledo as well.

Deadlines

Assignment 1	Introduction of an Article	October 22, 17.00
Assignment 2	Abstract (Conference, Article, etc)	Nov. 12, 17.00
Assignment 3	Summary + Objectives Research Proposal	December 3, 17.00
Assignment 4	Personal Statement and CV	December 17, 17.00
Oral Presentation 1		
Oral Presentation 2		

4. Schedule

Unless indicated otherwise, meetings are on **Wednesday, 9 am – 12 pm.**

Session	Date	Room	Subject	Instructors
1	September 29	A	**Introduction** - Introduction - Applying to Doctoral Programs	Friedman Polloni
2	October 6	A	**Writing I: Principles of academic publishing** - Deontology and Plagiarism - From Planning to Publication - Basic structure: introduction, body, and conclusions - Article Introduction (*Assignment 1*)	Polloni Friedman
3	October 13	A	**Writing II: Titles, abstracts, keywords (TAK)** - Academic style - The importance of titles and keywords - Abstracts for articles and talks (*Assignment 2*)	Polloni
4	October 27	A	**Writing III: Writing a research/grant proposal** - Form and structure of a research proposal - Goals and aims of your research - Outputs and outreach - Summary and Objectives (*Assignment 3*)	Polloni

	Wednesday, October 27, 7.15-9.15 pm	A	**Roundtable** What is it like to be a PhD student in philosophy or an academic philosopher?	Various
5	November 3	A	**Oral Presentation: Introduction** - Giving a(n Academic) Talk - Handout and Powerpoint	Friedman
6	November 10	A	**Academic Narratives and Teaching** - Storytelling and academic writing - Being Persuasive - Teaching	Polloni
7	November 17	A	**Writing IV**: **Presenting Yourself** - Cover Letter (Jobs) - Personal Statement / CV (*Assignment 4*)	Friedman
8	December 1	TBA	**Oral Presentations I** For the 5-minute presentations, the group will be divided into groups of 8-10 students.	Friedman Bender Kobec Masolini
9	December 8	TBA	**Oral Presentations II** For the 10-minute presentations, the group will be divided into groups of 6-8 students.	Friedman Bender Kobec Masolini

5. Useful Information

a. Recommended literature

Feibelman, Peter J. (2011), *A PhD Is Not Enough!: A Guide to Survival in Science*, Basic Books.

Murray, Rowena (2011), *How to Write a Thesis*, Open University Press.

Strunk, William Jr. and White, E.B. (1999), *The Elements of Style*, Pearson. (On Toledo)

Susan Thurman (2003), *The Only Grammar Book You'll Ever Need: A One-Stop Source for Every Writing Assignment*, Adams Media. (On Toledo)

Desmond Thomas (2016), *The PhD Writing Handbook*. Macmillan (in the library of the institute)

An electronic version of the *Chicago Manual of Style* can be accessed through LIMO; a short version is available at: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

b. Writing Lab, English Courses, Learning Foreign Languages

Students who wish to receive feedback on their English writing can consult the **Writing Lab** of the Institute of Philosophy: https://hiw.kuleuven.be/eng/programmes/writinglab

Students who wish to improve their English can enroll in a course offered by the **Leuven Language Institute** (ILT) of KU Leuven. Deadline for the first term: September 23. See http://ilt.kuleuven.be/english/cursus/andere_academic_english.php

The ILT also offers (free) **face-to-face advice** and an electronic tool called **Academic Writing Assistant:**

https://ilt.kuleuven.be/english/writingcentre/

https://ilt.kuleuven.be/schrijfhulp_eng/

Websites / apps that offer advice on learning languages (in many cases for free) through the internet:

http://www.english-for-students.com/Grammar.html
https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar
http://www.mosalingua.com/en/
http://www.openculture.com/freelanguagelessons
https://www.tandem.net/

https://www.ldoceonline.com/exercise/
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/index.html
https://www.springer.com/gp/authors-editors/authorandreviewertutorials/writinginenglish

https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/basic-grammar

Apart from English, it is strongly recommended that students who want to pursue a PhD learn at least read the foreign language(s) relevant to their project (Latin, Greek, French, German, etc.). Apart from the courses offered by ILT, the Theology Department offers courses in Latin and Greek; the Institute of Philosophy offers courses devoted to reading French and German philosophical texts (NB: they cannot be taken as electives):

https://onderwijsaanbod.kuleuven.be/2017/opleidingen/e/SC_50531920.htm#bl=04,0401

https://onderwijsaanbod.kuleuven.be/syllabi/e/W0EA0AE.htm#activetab=doelstellingen_idm4055520

https://onderwijsaanbod.kuleuven.be/2017/syllabi/e/W0EB0AE.htm#activetab=doelstellingen_idp37888

c. Information about Philosophy Journals

- Guidebook for Publishing Philosophy: very helpful as regards acceptance rate, backlog etc:
http://sophia.smith.edu/~jmoulton/guidebook/j.htm#JHP

- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_philosophy_journals

- **Flemish Academic Bibliography** for the Social Sciences and Humanities (VABB-SHW): see Toledo or https://www.ecoom.be/en/data-collections/vabb-shw

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- **Erih list**: see Toledo. Ideally, you should publish in journals listed here. The list distinguishes 3 categories: INT1 (high-end international journals), INT2, and NAT (national journals).

- Avoid publishing in so-called **predator journals** at all costs: they are just means to make money. So make sure the journal of your choice is listed on the VABB-SHW list or another reliable list. See:
http://www.aje.com/en/arc/8-ways-identify-questionable-open-access-journal/

Finding books and journal articles

At KU Leuven, **LIMO** is the tool that allows you to identify or access books and journals, and to download articles. Other tools include **Philpapers** (recommended), **Research Gate,** and the **Philosopher's Index** (the latter must be acccessed through LIMO). Many books are (partly) available on **Google Books**.

http://limo.libis.be/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=KULeuven&fromLogin=true
http://philpapers.org/
https://www.researchgate.net/

Email lists that announce calls for papers, conferences, jobs, etc. (you need to subscribe):

Philos-L: http://listserv.liv.ac.uk/archives/chora.html

Philevents: http://philevents.org/

Philosop: https://lists.louisiana.edu/mailman/listinfo/philosop

Videos about IELTS exams and the Toefl test: try www.youtube.com

Blogs and websites that may offer usesful information about applying to doctoral programs etc.:

https://thegradcafe.com

https://blog.apaonline.org/tag/the-splintered-mind

http://dailynous.com