

PH8003: PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR

Fall 2012

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Office Hours: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Professional Seminar is a required course for all first year students. While the topic may vary from year to year, the seminar has several consistent aims. It will introduce students to the professional skills needed to succeed in the program and the profession, including an introduction to Ryerson's library. Students will meet the department's faculty, who will present their research and discuss the methods they employ and the distinctive traditions in which they work. Finally, the seminar will initiate the mentoring and planning processes needed to successfully complete the program, including grant and scholarship applications.

THEME AND TEXTS

The theme for this term will be writing philosophy. We will study some texts offering advice to students and then analyze some classic philosophical essays with an eye to excellence in writing.

GRADING SCHEME

- This is a Pass/Fail course.
- There are three kinds of assignments:
 - o Writing Philosophy analyses (Details TBA)
 - o Library Research Report (Details TBA)
 - o Visiting Speaker Summaries (See below.)
- To receive a PASS grade, each assignment must receive a PASS grade.
- Failure to hand in ANY of these assignments will result in a grade of FAIL for the course.

COURSE MEETING TIMES

- The course is scheduled to meet from 3-6 on Tuesdays. Attendance is mandatory.
- This is the same time as Departmental Talks. Students are REQUIRED to attend those talks, and submit a 2-page summary by the end of the week.
- The course won't meet every week, and may not last the entire 3 hours. See tentative schedule, below.

- My **Office Hours** are provided for small-group or one-on-one consultation with me. I encourage all of you to drop by my office hours at any time during the semester if you have questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions about any aspect of PH8003.

COURSE POLICIES FOR PH8003

Alternate Arrangements

In general, circumstances interfering with your ability to perform required course work must be brought to my attention as they arise, and if at all possible, in advance of missed work. Requests made at the end of term due to ongoing personal circumstances will not be considered (for more information, see Ryerson's [Student Guide to Avoiding Academic Appeals](#)).

Alternate arrangements for missed assignments or exams will normally be granted ONLY for reasons of illness or injury, religious observance, disability and compassionate grounds (see below).

Alternate Arrangements/Extensions will NOT be granted for the following reasons:

- Computer failure, loss of work (keep a backup copy of all your work)
- Social engagements, including family-related events
- Work schedules
- Coincident deadlines in other courses
- Travel other than home-to-school commuting (holidays, cancelled flights, e.g.)

Requests for alternate arrangements will be considered in the following cases:

1. *Illness/Injury*. Students must provide, within three working days of the missed deadline (or as soon as medically feasible), a completed Ryerson Medical Certificate or a letter from a physician (on letterhead) with the student declaration portion of the [Ryerson Medical Certificate](#) attached. The nature of the alternate arrangement for making up the missing grade is left to the discretion of the instructor.
2. *Religious Observance*. Ryerson policy allows accommodation for religious observances. Requests for such accommodation must be made no later than two weeks prior to the conflict in question and preferably should be made during the first two weeks of class. Here are the appropriate [forms and instructions](#). For more, see Ryerson's full policy on [Accommodation of Student Religious Observance Obligations](#).
3. *Disability*. Students with a diagnosed physical or learning disability should register with the [Ryerson Access Centre](#) at the start of the term.
4. *Compassionate Grounds*. Students unable to complete assignments due to loss of a family member or loved one, or due to personal difficulties that are interfering with their studies, should speak to the instructors as soon as is possible. The instructor reserves the right to require documentation, depending upon the circumstances.

Academic Misconduct

Students are reminded that they are required to adhere to all relevant University policies, such as the [Student Code of Academic Conduct](#). This code treats plagiarism (the misrepresentation of someone

else's work as your own) as a form of academic misconduct. For detailed information concerning academic misconduct and the relevant penalties, see the Student Code.

Note that the instructor will be distributing information specifying the required citation practices for assignments in this course, and that you are responsible for being aware of and employing this information.

Note also that it is your responsibility to be aware of what constitutes plagiarism, and that ignorance of this is not an acceptable excuse. For further information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, go to [Ryerson's Academic Integrity](#) website. This site contains tutorials and quizzes to help you learn about various types of misconduct, as well as a brief guide to avoiding [plagiarism](#).

Any case of suspected academic misconduct will automatically trigger a facilitated discussion with the Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) or delegate. The minimum penalty for a confirmed case of academic misconduct is failure on the assignment, but the instructor has the right to assign a failing grade for the entire course.

Non-Academic Misconduct

You should be familiar with Ryerson's Senate [policies 60 and 61](#), which detail Ryerson's Code of Conduct. Class discussion is valuable, but chatting with friends—even about class topics—can be highly distracting. I strongly urge you all to use restraint. Ryerson's code of conduct allows the instructor to ask disruptive students to leave.

The use of laptops is permitted, but ONLY for course purposes. Any other use is strictly FORBIDDEN. I reserve the right to confiscate laptops whose use is proving disruptive to the class.

Cell phones may be used during class time, but ONLY for emergencies.

I reserve the right to confiscate phones (or other electronic devices) whose use is proving disruptive to the class. Confiscated items will be returned at the end of class. But you must then contact your program director and have them send me a letter confirming that you have discussed your disruptive behaviour with him/her and have committed never to repeat the offense.

Date	Tentative Schedule	Notes
Sept. 4th	New Student Orientation	This is mandatory
Sept. 11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · SSHRC/OGS Application session on Tuesday 11th. Required if you are required to apply for a SSHRC/OGS grant this fall. Open to all. · TA/GA Workshop: Thursday 13th and Friday 14th (9:30-3:30) You are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to attend one of them 	
Sept. 18th	Library Training Session (3-4:30) Location TBA	
Sept. 25th	NO CLASS (Faculty meeting)	
Oct. 2nd	Tuesday Oct. 2nd: Academic Misconduct Workshop: 12-2pm) You are STRONGLY encouraged to attend. http://www.ryerson.ca/lt/taga/workshop/	
Oct. 9th	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Week Off)	
Oct. 16th	Visiting Speaker: Neera Badhwar	2-page summary due Wednesday 17th
Oct. 23rd	Philosophical Writing I	Details TBA
Oct. 30th	NO CLASS (Faculty meeting)	
Nov. 6th	Philosophical Writing II	Details TBA
Nov. 13th	NO CLASS	
Nov. 20th	Visiting Speaker: Derek Matravers	2-page summary due Wednesday 21st
Nov. 27th	NO CLASS (Faculty meeting)	