

(Preliminary Course Syllabus. Will Be Completed After First Week of Class)

PHI 3083 Research Methods
3 Semester Hours Credit

(Web Version. There Is Also An In-Person Version)

Fall 2017

Don Jones

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A. Instructor

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Teaching Schedule	Research Methods	T, Th 9-10:15	In-person version of this course.
	Research Methods	Web	This is the full web section of the Research Methods course. It will run generally in parallel with the in-person version.
	Introduction to Philosophy	T, Th 12:00-1:15	
	Ethics in Science	Web	

Office Hours Monday 11:30-1:30, Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:30
By appointment otherwise

Optional Online Chat Room virtual office hours announced from week to week

B. Course Description in UCF Catalog

PR: Philosophy or Humanities major or C.I. Sources, methods, and styles of research in Philosophy. Aimed at enhancing the research, reading, and writing skills of undergraduate philosophy students. Odd Fall.

C. Assessed Course Aims

Some of the results of our activities are reported to University Assessment at the end of the academic year. University Assessment looks at this course (and at Senior Seminar and all 4000 level philosophy courses) to determine how well students can recognize different styles of philosophy, how well students can do research in philosophy, how well students can write a research paper in philosophy. This is measured by exams and writings, and, in some cases, by oral work.

Not all course aims are assessed by University Assessment. Some of our aims are handled within the course grading.

C. Course Text

All readings will be online or distributed in class.

D. Course Grade

- 1/5 Three Short 1-2 Page Writings (Reviews, Others)
- 1/5 Exam One (Online Multiple Choice Plus Online Short-Answer Essay)
- 1/5 Exam Two (Online Multiple Choice Plus Online Short-Answer Essay)
- 2/5 Project: Potential Journal article or Conference presentation.
[Grade Points for Project: Topic With Potential Thesis (5 percent), Sentence Outline (10 percent), Literature Review (15 percent), Rough Draft (20 Percent), Final Copy (50 percent)]

Additional Condition on Course Grade: Cannot Receive a Course Grade of “A” or “B” without a grade of “A” or “B” or “C” on the Final Copy of the Project.

Plus-Minus. We will not use the plus minus grading system.

General Grading Criteria for Essays: Clarity of thesis, support for thesis, awareness of objections to thesis and its supporting reasoning, response to objections, overall logical coherence, and quality of writing.

Warning: Please be very careful to avoid plagiarism in essays and in Discussion postings. In general, you are most welcome, indeed encouraged, to seek outside sources (written, online, or in-person) for material but must report the source, including page numbers. Paraphrases and direct quotations should be in quotation marks and footnoted. You are welcome to use an informal footnote style by inserting a brief reference inside parentheses in your text that refers to an item that you list in a bibliography at the end of your paper.

The consequences of plagiarism will be an “F” on the assignment, a possible “F” on the exam (if it occurs on an exam), a possible “F” in the course, and required recommendation to Student Conduct for further disciplinary action, including dismissal from UCF.

E. Course Exams

Exam One	Online Thursday 21 September
Exam Two	Online Thursday 19 October
Withdrawal Deadline	Monday 30 October
Last Day of Our Class	Thursday 30 November. (University last day of classes is Saturday 2 December)
Comprehensive Final Exam	In classroom , Thursday 7 December 8-9:50 AM (Says “7” but we’ll start at 8)

F. Comments on Course Exams

Required Exams. Exams consist of online multiple choice questions plus online short answer essays.

Review Sheets. For each exam, review sheets posted online in an area in a folder in the Files area of the course website with that exam’s name (“Exam One Information”, for example).

G. Course Reading Pages

Reading pages for each unit will be posted online in the Pages area of the course website. Online readings to supplement the paper readings will be posted for each unit on the course website.