

Winter 2027

PHILOSOP 9900B: Prospectus Course

PREREQUISITE CHECKING

There is no formal prerequisite for this course. However, it is intended for students who presently have a doctoral supervisor. What's more, ideally, students will have already completed all course work and all comprehensive/competency exams. The course is designed to be a transition point on the way to writing the doctoral thesis.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PhD students in philosophy are required to produce a prospectus summarizing their doctoral dissertation project. They must defend the prospectus in an oral examination held by their Prospectus Committee. This prospectus must present a clear, coherent, and promising research plan.

The primary aim of the Prospectus Course is to support PhD students in developing this research plan, including drafting a clear and coherent prospectus. In this course we will discuss model prospectuses, research methods, and writing strategies. The primary focus, however, will be on student presentations and peer-led discussion of drafts of parts of the prospectus and of the prospectus as a whole. Accordingly, each member of the course must be prepared to present and share their research in a way that is intelligible to a broad philosophical audience and attend class prepared to comment constructively on the work of their peers. The instructor of this course will facilitate and support the development of the prospectus and ensure that students remain accountable to deadlines.

In addition, the Prospectus Course is designed to both aid with professionalization and to make students more consciously aware of methodological issues in philosophy.

The course is graded on a pass/fail basis. Regular attendance, participation in in-class activities, and successful and timely completion of assignments will suffice for a pass. Students enrolled in this course must have a supervisor by the time the course starts, and it is highly desirable that they have completed all other degree requirements by the time the

course begins. It is expected that students will meet regularly with their supervisor(s) while taking the course.