



SEMINAR INFORMATION

1. OFFICE HOURS AND HOW TO REACH ME

I (Peter Vranas) will hold office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:55-11:55am, in my office, 5171 Helen C. White Hall (phone: 263-3740). I hope to meet each of you several times during the term. I will be handing out a sign-up sheet for my office hours, but feel free to make appointments if the above times don't suit you. You can best reach me by email (vranas@wisc.edu).

2. SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

1	Term paper (due December 14). There is no minimum or maximum length requirement, but this should be a substantial and original research paper. Although the paper should demonstrate ample knowledge of the relevant literature, exposition of other people's views should be kept to a minimum; the bulk of the paper should be devoted to motivating and formulating your own thesis, defending your thesis by means of clearly identified premises, and addressing powerful objections. The paper should be divided into titled sections and should include an abstract of at most 150 words. You may wish to consult the handouts about philosophy papers on my website (https://sites.google.com/site/peterbmvrnas/).
2	Thirteen discussion emails. Before each meeting, <u>by 3pm on Thursdays</u> , you are to send <i>to the email group for the seminar</i> (philos911-1-f16@lists.wisc.edu) an email on the readings for that meeting, formulating objections and discussion questions. Please keep the emails concise. Your email should address <i>all</i> readings for each meeting and should contain two or three distinct sections, namely one section for each reading (or part of a reading, or group of readings) enumerated in the syllabus. Occasionally, you may be given special instructions on extra assignments that you should send me by email.

Your letter grade for the seminar will be identical with your letter grade for the term paper, with the proviso that the discussion emails, although not graded, are required in order to pass the seminar (and may affect my "Green Sheet" evaluation of your performance).

3. DISCUSSION RULES

Participation in the discussions is not required, but I hope that *everyone* will participate. The fundamental discussion rule is that we must *treat everyone with the utmost respect*. It is not acceptable to insult or ridicule people or views. Everyone should feel free to voice unpopular opinions, as long as the opinions are expressed respectfully and backed by arguments.

The fundamental rule of respect has two concrete consequences. (1) Interrupting others is disrespectful (and may discourage shy people from participating): *please raise your hand and wait for your turn* before you speak. (2) Ignoring speakers is disrespectful: *please don't talk among yourselves* while someone is speaking.

4. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

If you would like me to make special arrangements for you because (1) you have a disability or (2) you are observing certain religious holidays, please let me know within the first two weeks of the term. Students with disabilities may wish to contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center (<http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu>).