



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 sign-up sheets 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 12). 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 (vranas.website).
2	Fourteen discussion emails. Before each meeting, <u>by 3pm on Sundays</u> , you are to send <i>to the email group for the seminar</i> (philos941-1-f18@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 (part of a) reading enumerated in the syllabus.

This is a 3-credit course. It meets for one two-hour class period each week over the semester and carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities on average for about 7.5 hours out of classroom for each class period. The main course objective is to help you become familiar with the literature on moral dilemmas and think critically about that literature.

3. GRADING POLICY

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). In addition to the official university grades (A, AB, B, etc.), grades like A+ and A- may be used (and, if they are used, they will be reported on the Green Sheets of philosophy graduate students). For graduate students, A+ corresponds to exceptional/outstanding performance, A corresponds to very good performance, A- corresponds to good/satisfactory performance, and AB corresponds to almost satisfactory performance.

4. 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.

5. 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>).