THE MCANULTY COLLEGE & GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2016

PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE TEACHING SEMINAR
1 & 2

PHIL 690-01 (1) & 689-01 (2)
Tuesdays 1:40-4:20 pm

Dr. Daniel Selcer
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Students at the University of Bologna, Jacobello Dalle Masegne, c. 1386

The Philosophy Graduate Teaching Seminar is a no-credit pass/no-pass required course for all first and second year Teaching Fellows. It is a practicum for those preparing to teach philosophy and a workshop for those who find themselves already in the classroom.

Group 1 (PHIL 690) will learn to construct an effective introductory-level philosophy course, including conceptualizing a semester’s-worth of reading and assignments; preparing a syllabus; becoming familiar with a variety of effective pedagogical techniques; considering a different of types of assignments; and learning the basics of assessing and responding to student work. Group 1 will also begin to consider the various ways that diverse forms of student identity (race, class, gender, sexuality, religious belief, etc.) can impact the pedagogical situation. Group 2 (PHIL 689) will revisit and further develop their techniques for assessing and responding to student work (including problems with cheating and plagiarism), while also continuing to consider the ways student identity can impact the classroom and the student-teacher relationship. Group 2 will also address time-management issues, since by this point the difficulties of teaching while also pursuing one’s own work have no doubt begun to set in. Most importantly, Group 2 members will have the opportunity to bring the real-world issues they are facing in their own classrooms into the seminar and discuss challenges they are facing at this early stage of their careers.

For approximately one-third of the semester, both groups will meet together to discuss issues relevant to all. Group 1 will meet for another third to cover concrete topics connected to syllabus construction, course preparation, and the pedagogical requirements of the Department, College, and University. Group 2 will meet for the remaining third to workshop the concrete challenges they are encountering in their classrooms and to help balance teaching responsibilities with research (these sessions are open to all Teaching Fellows, regardless of whether they are currently enrolled in the seminar). Dates/times for the three formats will be staggered and a detailed schedule will be provided at the start of the semester.


To pass, students must attend all sessions required for their group, participate in discussion, prepare short assigned readings and cases, formulate a syllabus template (G1 only), submit current syllabi for review (G2 only), produce a teaching observation (G2), give a brief in-class teaching demonstration (G1 only), and meet individually with the professor near the end of the semester.