

# Philosophy 4990 - Philosophy Capstone Seminar - Spring 2019

Professor Charlie Huenemann

T/Th 9-10:15, Main 201

The aim of this class is to help students produce a “capstone project”, which is a project incorporating a great deal of the skills and knowledge they have acquired through their study of philosophy. Students of philosophy can be very different from one another, so it is not assumed that all capstone projects should look the same. Some students may want to write a straightforward inquiry into a philosophical problem; some may want to compare and contrast historical texts in response to a question; others may want to create their own great work - their own philosophy, written in an attempt to express what has been left unsaid.

We will begin by exploring what capstone project is best suited for each student. We will then begin work on our projects in the style of a workshop: students will present drafts of their papers, or discussions of their topics, and other students will raise suggestions or questions. Our goal, in the end, is for each student to submit their work to a publication venue - in most cases, an undergraduate journal of philosophy. We may also organize a “mini-conference”, inviting the other philosophy faculty, so students can present their work.

**No texts** (aside from what I make available on Canvas), **no exams**.

**Instructor information:** Charlie Huenemann, Main 208, phone 797-0254; office hours 1-3 on Wednesdays, but I'm also generally available on T/W/Th, and by appointment, email [charlie.huenemann@usu.edu](mailto:charlie.huenemann@usu.edu). I have a blog if you are interested: [huenemanni.com](http://huenemanni.com). Also, on the subject of blogs, you may wish to check out [usuphilosophy.com](http://usuphilosophy.com) to stay abreast of local philosophical happenings.

**Attendance and participation policy:** This is a seminar, so attendance and participation are extremely important. That being said, life can get complicated, and sometimes missing a class is unavoidable. Three absences will be tolerated without penalty. After that, each absence will be recorded as a point taken away from the 10 points accorded to attendance. When you do attend, it is important that you participate, particularly in the discussion of other students' work. Attendance and participation together are worth 30% of the final grade.

**Late to class policy:** after 30 minutes, you are absent, unless I grant you an exception in advance.

**Late assignment policy:** Late assignments will not receive a grade higher than a B; very late assignments (more than a week) will not receive any grade higher than a C.

**Schedule:**

1. Exploration of topics (2 weeks)
  - \* statement of project: due 1/22
2. Work on projects (11 weeks)
  - \* two project updates due on: 2/12, 3/26
3. Presentations of projects (2 weeks)
  - \* final project due 4/9