

PHILOSOPHY 743/744
PHD RESEARCH SEMINAR
2018-2019

Dr. Brigitte Sassen

Fall: Tu 11:30 – 2:20, UH 312

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Winter: Tu 3:30 – 6:20, UH 312

The PhD research seminar, required of all PhD students and open only to them, is devoted to the development of the students' own ideas in the context of their current research. The seminar serves a number of purposes. It gives students the opportunity to present a paper on the subject of their dissertation. As well, the seminar provides a regular occasion for doctoral students to become acquainted with each other and with each other's work. Finally, it serves to acquaint doctoral students with professional standards in the preparation, and criticism of philosophical research. Each student will prepare one paper on a topic chosen by the student. This should be a paper relevant to their dissertation. Please note that a proper, academic paper is required for the seminar and that a thesis proposal is not a paper. The paper will not be read in the seminar, but will be circulated a week in advance. In the seminar an assigned commentator will introduce the paper and start the discussion. The remaining seminar participants will write (in advance) brief comments on the paper. The paper to be discussed will be announced to faculty and other graduate students, who are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. It is expected that supervisors will attend when their students' papers are under discussion.

After an organizational meeting in September (Sept. 11), the seminar will meet roughly every two weeks in November and January, at dates to be arranged. The final grade is pass/fail. Each student will receive a qualitative assessment of their work at the end of the first term, with an indication of whether the work is satisfactory.

At the end of the second term (April 10, 2019), there will be an all-day conference at which seminar participants will present a 20-minute revised version of their papers, followed by a 10-minute commentary (by a new commentator) and discussion.

Please note that although the course is offered over two terms, students only need to register for it once, putting it down as offered in "term 3" (i.e. terms 1 and 2 combined), but as a half-course.