

PHIL 399 – Tutorial

Statement of Purpose: The Philosophy Tutorial is a structured program of reading and research on a specific topic not adequately covered in our curriculum. Tutorials allow students to “fill gaps” in their knowledge, extend the knowledge they already have, or cross the usual lines between disciplines. Tutorials usually involve extensive reading, weekly meetings, and at least one substantial paper. However, since the essence of Tutorial method is its flexibility, instructors are free to tailor the requirements to the specific project. In addition, some latitude should be allowed so that the student and the supervising professor can adjust the reading or research, without being held rigidly to the plan of study submitted the previous term. Good tutorials should be allowed to develop as they go along.

Procedure: Normally, the student initiates the process by proposing a topic to the prospective supervisor. If the supervisor agrees that the topic is appropriate, the student and mentor will work out a plan of study. If you are unsure who might supervise your project, consult with the department chair or your advisor.

Proposal: Once you and the supervisor have worked out a plan of study, sign this form, complete the “Application for Individual Enrollment” (available through the tutor), and prepare a 1-2 page project description, including:

- the topic to be studied;
- the plan of study (How often will the student meet with the supervisor? How will the study be organized?);
- a brief explanation of how the grade will be determined; and
- a tentative reading list.

Pre-requisites: The catalog requires *a minimum* of 6 credit hours of philosophy (excluding PHIL 120), sophomore standing, and approval by the tutor and department. Please note, however, that tutorials are intended for students who have the philosophical background, intellectual skills, and motivation to independently tackle a significant research project. In evaluating proposals, the department will be looking for evidence that the student has the intellectual skills and motivation to successfully complete the project.

Deadline: For Spring tutorials, proposals are due November 15; for the Fall semester, they are due April 15th. These deadlines are in place to allow sufficient time for faculty to review proposals. Although these deadlines may be extended for extenuating circumstances, understand that a late proposal will bias the department against the project. Independent research requires organization and discipline; if the student is not sufficiently organized to meet the deadline, it is natural to worry that s/he is not sufficiently organized to successfully complete the project.

Please attach the proposal to this form and sign below.

Student

Date