

Sample Course outline

“Philosophical Methodology for Foreign Students”

UE 6, Fall Semester 2018

« *Un philosophe n'est le citoyen d'aucune paroisse de pensée. C'est ce qui fait de lui un philosophe.* » –
 (“The philosopher is not a citizen of any community of ideas, that is what makes him a philosopher”)
Wittgenstein (*Zettel*, §455, tr. fr. J. Fauve)

Course description

This course is a practical initiation to the typical exercises of philosophical training in France. It is aimed at foreign or international students. We will work on the textual commentary, the *dissertation*, and the oral presentation or *exposé*, through examples and practice. The themes and texts covered will serve to illustrate what the exercises call for. Insofar as is possible, the themes discussed will be adapted to the interests and needs of the group. The course is open to foreign or international undergraduate students of all levels.

Recommended reading: Dominique Folscheid, Jean-Jacques Wunenburger et Philippe Choulet [1992], *Méthodologie philosophique*, Paris, PUF, 2013.

Other resources available on the Moodle module for this course.

Schedule

Week 1 : Presentation of the course. What is the purpose of methodologies in philosophy?

Step 1: Reading and arguing

Week 2: Methods for reading a philosophical text

Week 3: Constructing philosophical argumentation : prelude to the *dissertation*

Step 2: La dissertation

Week 4: *Dissertation 1: la problématisation* (recognizing and articulating a philosophical problem)

Week 5: *Dissertation 2:* structure (outline) and writing process.

Week 5: *Dissertation 3:* **graded exercise in class (writing an introduction and outline)**

At-home *dissertation* topic announced.

Step 3: Explanation and Textual Commentary

Week 6: Textual commentary 1: method, examples

Week 7: Textual commentary 2: **graded exercise in class**

Week 8: In-class exercises corrected with models.

Step 4: Exposé (Oral Presentation)

Week 9: Oral presentation 1: types of presentation, method and practical exercises.

Week 10 : Oral presentations continued (optional grade).

Week 11: Conclusion and review of all three exercises. Correction of at-home full *dissertation* exercise.