

# Philosophy 332.01

## Teaching Philosophy

Professor: Sara Bernstein (sara.bernstein@duke.edu)

Teaching is something that almost all professors do, but for which they are rarely trained. Philosophy professors face unique challenges in the classroom, where the goal is often to teach students *how* to think rather than *what* to think. In this graduate class for future professors, we will explore and learn how to teach philosophy. We will cover such topics as:

- Creation of syllabi with appropriate scope, content, and difficulty
- Communication of complicated philosophical concepts and ideas to undergraduate students
- Encouraging students to build their own philosophical positions, rather than parroting the ideas of others
- Getting students to “do” philosophy rather than merely study it
- Encouraging more students to speak up in class
- Building trust and rapport with one’s students
- Earning and keeping students’ attention in class
- Creating a non-discriminatory learning environment encouraging to women and minorities
- Handling problem students and students with behavioral problems
- Balancing teaching and research

### Course Requirements:

- One teaching presentation
- Participation in class discussion

This course will meet every other week over the spring and fall semesters. Students will begin the course in spring of their third year before they have begun teaching, and continue the course into fall of their fourth year when teaching has begun.