

Undergraduate Research Opportunity

PROJECT

Searching for Common Ground

Nathan Ballantyne

Philosophy

Hours required p/week:	9
Credits anticipated:	3

Finding a common ground is often regarded as a solution for today's polarization of civic, religious, and political discourse. By combining analytical tools from philosophy and experimental methods from social psychology, this project empirically examines how people respond to invitations to seek common ground as well as lay thinking about the nature of the common ground. The goal of this project is to run experiments in which subjects will be prompted with scenarios that depict disagreements on polarizing topics, such as abortion for disabled fetuses, law and religious liberties, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

TEMPE

ONLINE

STUDENT

Research assistant's duties:

The research assistant will help review the relevant philosophical and psychological literature on common ground, and help to design and test vignettes and scenarios that could then be used in the actual experiments.

Required skills or qualifications:

Required qualifications include: excellent analytical and writing skills. Keen interest in exploring the topic of common ground more in depth. Some familiarity with creating thought experiments, experimental design and basic empirical methods is a plus.

Skills student will acquire:

Students will acquire skills in project management, collaborative research and literature review.