Undergraduate Research Opportunity

PROJECT

Informational Design and Philosophy

Prof. Michelle Saint
Philosophy

Hours required p/week: 9
Credits anticipated: 3

This project, “Informational Design and Philosophy,” offers a rare opportunity to work at the intersection of philosophy, the science of teaching and learning, and the visual arts. The purpose of this experience is to develop visually inviting informational materials concerning how to read, interpret, and write philosophical arguments. The ultimate goal will be to produce infographics or related materials that highlight different strategies, tips, or techniques for improving one’s philosophical reading, writing, and thinking. The produced materials can be PDFs, webpages, or some other format. This project will be most beneficial to students who:

A) intend to go into an education-related field, B) enjoy graphic design / web design / informational design, and/or C) would like to learn how to improve their own philosophic reading, writing, and thinking.

Here is an example of the type of material to be developed:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bRlQjF8DdtgYrkfpO4s1Mm_POaKZ2FkdgdR_FnPjW8/edit?usp=sharing

STUDENT

Research assistant’s duties:
The student research will:

- Locate relevant research covering best practices for reading, writing, and thinking about philosophy
- Collaborate on drafting copy that presents these best practices clearly and concisely
- Research informational design principles / strategies
- Manage whatever software / technical requirements are necessary to produce the desired materials (if nothing else, there are free apps that allow for producing infographics, etc)
- Design infographics / webpages / other visually-significant forms of presenting that copy

Required skills or qualifications:
Completion of a minimum of one philosophy course; competent in visual design/graphic design/web-designing as relevant for the form you intend the completed materials to take; comfortable reading, evaluating and summarizing academic materials related to teaching philosophy and/or the science of teaching and learning.

Skills student will acquire:
Upon completing this undergraduate research experience, students will be able to:

- Use Google Scholar and related resources to find research relevant to a particular topic
- Summarize complex information in simple, clear, and friendly ways
- Describe a variety of strategies, tips, and techniques to help with reading, writing, and evaluating philosophical arguments
- Design pedagogical resources that are both informative and visually inviting