

Stanford Philosophy Directed Reading Program

Goals

The aim of the program is to provide an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students interested in philosophy to get to know one another, form and develop mentoring relationships, and discuss philosophy outside of the more formal classroom setting. The program is modeled after Directed Reading Programs run in math departments across the country.

Program format

Each quarter,

1. Interested undergraduate students submit a brief application which asks about their philosophical background and philosophical interests.
2. The organizing committee matches undergraduates with graduate student mentors in the philosophy departments with similar interests.
3. Each pair agrees on material that the undergraduate will read over the course of the quarter. The program will partially defray the cost of any research materials.
4. The undergraduate student will be expected to spend at least four hours weekly reading the material. During the week, students and mentors meet in person for about one hour to discuss the material. *Note: this program is meant to be informal and thus will not confer academic credit.*
5. At the end of the quarter, mentors and mentees are invited to a dinner where the mentees can discuss what they learned over the quarter. This may consist in anything from informally sharing a few words about their readings to the dissemination of writing or a poster presentation.
6. The next quarter, we start from step 1 again (new pool of mentors, new pairings, etc.). Of course, mentoring relationships may last beyond the single quarter if both participants wish.

Eligibility and the matching process

All Stanford undergraduate students are welcome and encouraged to apply to the Philosophy DRP, especially members of groups that are historically underrepresented in philosophy. Unfortunately, we are not usually able to recruit enough mentors to match all students who apply to the DRP. We tend to prioritize matching students who are further along in their studies. Students who we are not able to match in a given quarter will be given special consideration in future quarters.