Syllabus, Fil 4081, Philosophical method and practice
Fall 2021
Instructor: Reidar Maliks

The course is an obligatory part of the MA program, taken in its first semester. The course helps you develop the skills that are required to do philosophy at an advanced level. It covers a variety of philosophical methods with an eye to practical applications. Particular emphasis is placed on developing writing and project development skills, and on preparing for the MA essay (FIL4091) or the MA thesis (FIL4090). The course also emphasizes other practical skills, such as making oral presentations, contributing to seminars and conferences, organizing discussion groups, and popularizing philosophy beyond academia. You will get an introduction to philosophical research. The exact course contents and emphasis may vary from year to year.

The class will be taught as a series of "master classes" by philosophers in our department, in order to benefit from their expertise and to acquaint MA students more with our faculty members. Each philosopher takes charge of one two-hour session, and assigns the readings for it.

Compulsory tuition activities
You are required to submit a text of one page responding to one of the readings for each week (though not for sessions devoted to practical tasks such as the library visit). The texts are to be submitted in Canvas by 12:00 the day before the seminar. The purpose is for you to briefly analyse the paper's thesis and to pose a question or make an observation on the paper's argumentation method and structure. The texts will be made available to the professor holding the master class.

Examination
A portfolio exam which consists of revised versions of eight obligatory assignments, in addition to a brief text where you describe what you wish to write about in your Master's thesis or Master's essay. A supervisor will be assigned based on your description. The description will not be subject to a formal assessment like the rest of the portfolio, but is still a part of it.

More information
Please consult the course web page:
https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/ifikk/FIL4081/index-eng.html