Course Description:
This course is the first quarter of a year-long practicum in the teaching of philosophy. The first quarter emphasizes pedagogical techniques and practical issues relevant to your role as Graduate Teaching Fellows, including strategies for leading discussions, grading, advising and mentoring students, and assessing your teaching. The goal of this quarter is to improve your effectiveness as an instructor and provide you with a forum for discussing the challenges that you will face in the classroom. The Winter and Spring quarters will focus on broader issues of course development (e.g., constructing syllabi, selecting texts, formulating assignments, and delivering effective lectures) and the philosophy of education, especially as this relates to higher education and the goals of the philosophy classroom.

Required Texts:
All required readings for the fall quarter will be posted on Blackboard

Course Requirements
Attendance is mandatory. Short readings will be assigned for most class meetings. You are expected to participate actively in this class, which includes attending all classes, reading all assigned material prior to class, and engaging productively in class discussion. Apart from readings and class discussion, no further assignments will be made unless the class collectively decides to add them. This course is available only with a PASS/NO PASS grading option. If you have enrolled for a grade, please change your status to P/NP.

Course Schedule
Week 1 (9/27)  Introductions; The first day of class
Davis, “The First Day of Class”

Week 2 (10/4)  Leading Effective Discussions
Davis, “Leading a Discussion”

Week 3 (10/11) Teaching Philosophical Writing
Portmore, “Tips on Writing a Philosophy Paper”

Week 4 (10/18) Grading Essays
Caraco, “A Method for Grading Essays in Any Course”
Sommers, “Responding to Student Writing”

Week 5 (10/25) Midterm Evaluations
Carlton College, “Learning from Our Students”
University of Texas, “Small Group Instructional Diagnosis”

Week 6 (11/1) University Resources – For you and for them
Teaching and Learning Center: http://tlc.uoregon.edu/
Disability Services: http://ds.uoregon.edu/
Counseling and Testing Center: http://counseling.uoregon.edu/dnn/
Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity: http://aaeo.uoregon.edu/

Week 7 (11/8) Discussions Revisited: What’s Working and What’s Not?
Vanderbilt CFT, “Classroom Assessment Techniques”
Eisen, “Confidence in the Classroom: Ten Maxims for New Teachers”

Week 8 (11/15) Office Hours, Advising, and Mentoring
Light, “Good Mentoring and Advising”

Week 9 (11/22) Grading Revisited
Parini, “The Unbearable Importance of Grading”

Week 10 (11/29) Preparing for Finals, Understanding Teaching Evaluations
Glenn, “2 Studies Shed New Light on the Meaning of Course Evaluations”