

PHI 245: INTRODUCTION TO EASTERN PHILOSOPHY
PRESENTATION GUIDELINES
Dr. Dave Yount

General Guidelines: For the presentations, you should take us through the following four main areas: Bio/Bearings, Overview, Clarification, and Praise/Criticism/Analysis. After you give your sense of the Overview, we will clap for you, I will ask you if you have any questions, and then answer them. Then I will answer all the other students' questions, and, finally, I will ask you for your Praise/Criticism/Analysis. Thus, this is not a "continuous" presentation where we all sit and listen to you for 30 minutes. So the time suggestions below are just for what YOU, the presenter will say, and the rest of the class and I will fill in the rest of the time. NOTE: If you give a presentation for an article, you do not need to turn in an Article Summary for that article (you will automatically earn credit for the Article Summary if you do the Presentation. However, please do turn in your notes for your presentation: I'll put a grade on the notes, look them over, and give them back to you in the next class.

FOUR AREAS A GOOD PRESENTATION WILL COVER:

- 1. BIO/BEARINGS: (3-5 minutes)** Briefly state the name of the philosopher and the assigned article that you are presenting. Give the class a *brief* (at least 3 but no more than 5 minutes) overview of the philosopher's life -- e.g., birth and death dates, the work the article is taken from, other famous works, where he/she lived, places lived, whether he/she got married and/or had kids, etc. You should find a picture of the philosopher, print it out, and pass that around the class; if you are the first of more than one student to present the same philosopher (or the second, and some other student is still going to present that philosopher again), then only have one picture, so you will allow others to find other pictures to show the class. If you are the second person to present the same person, try to find other biographical information we have not heard yet, and other pictures we have not seen. However, if you are going to present either the *last* time we will cover a philosopher or you will be the *only* person to present that philosopher, then you may print out more than one picture of the philosopher. Lastly, do NOT give lengthy descriptions of the philosophers' works, which you will find in their biographies sometimes.
- 2. OVERVIEW: (8-10 minutes)** Briefly describe what the author's main thesis or point is, in the assigned material. Try to answer these questions briefly: What is the argument? What is the issue? Why is this issue important? How does the author support his or her position? Does the author make any assumptions in order to make his or her argument (if so, mention them)? Is the author making any objections against his or her opponents' position(s) (if so, mention them)? Warnings: (1) Do NOT just get on the Web and print something off about the philosopher's theory in general and/or tell us about every aspect of his or her view -- only present the article in the text, as it occurs there. EX: We are reading Plato's theory of knowledge: do not discuss his view of the ideal state that you found on the Web. That is plagiarism to just read what someone else has said about your philosopher. (2) Make SURE that you cover every section of the reading if there are sections, or say something about what is stated on every page, at least briefly. (3) Read your article as soon as possible once your article is assigned to you, so you can see if it's difficult for you to understand. Dr. Y can help you with it, as long as you read it before the morning of your presentation. You cannot just come to class for your presentation and state that your article was confusing so you didn't get much out of it, and expect to do well.
- 3. CLARIFICATION: (5-15 minutes, depending on your and the other students' questions)** Is there anything about this material that you did not understand (after looking up unclear or unknown words, etc.)? What are you confused about? What did not make sense in the reading? What questions would you ask if you could talk to this philosopher right here and now? [NOTES:

(1) This is where I want everyone to be really honest and tell me if they were confused about ANYTHING! You will not have points taken off from your presentation for asking questions -- answering questions will only increase everyone's understanding of the material, including yours. (2) This is the point in the class where I will answer your questions from everyone else's article summaries.]

4. PRAISE/CRITICISM/ANALYSIS: (2-5 minutes -- not a one sentence summary of what you thought) What do you think about the author's argument or point? Do you agree and why or why not? Do you have any objection(s) to the author's argument? If so, how do you suppose the author would respond to it (or them)? Do you have a better idea, and if so, what is it? How does this author's position or argument compare with other authors' positions or arguments already presented? [NOTES: Please do not tell us how confusing the article was or how many times you had to read it, or whether you liked the style of the article. First, as far as confusion goes, I will do everything I can in class to help you make sense of the article, even if you did not understand it when you presented it. As far as writing style goes, these kinds of points are what would be discussed in an English class, and this class is a philosophy class.]

[From the syllabus: Here are three possible general grades on the presentation: (1) If you are on time, are well-prepared and present the material in an organized way (according to my Presentation Guidelines on my Website), then you will earn an A on it; (2) if you are tardy (more than 5 minutes late by my watch), mainly read straight out of the book and not from your own notes, have not prepared well in general (e.g., skipping large parts of an article), or have no notes ready and you wing it, you will earn a C; and (3) If you attend class but do not give a presentation, or if you have an unexcused absence on the day of your presentation, you will earn an F for that presentation. [I reserve the right to give any grade between an "A" and an "F" (including "mid-grades" such as AB - see paper grades in the syllabus) should I deem it necessary.]]