Course Descriptions

Fall 2019
Undergraduate Courses
**CAS PH 100 A1**  
**Introduction to Philosophy**  
Professor Sally Sedgwick  
*Tuesday, Thursday 12:30PM-1:45PM*  
Who am I? How am I different from other creatures, from other persons? What is the source of my identity, and how much of my identity can I control? What does it mean to be human? What special features distinguish the human species from other forms of intelligent life? These are among the questions we will consider with the help of classic as well as contemporary philosophical works. *There are no prerequisites for this course.*

**CAS PH 100 B1**  
**Introduction to Philosophy**  
Professor Derek Anderson  
*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10AM-11:00AM*  
Introduces the nature of philosophical activity through careful study of major philosophical topics. We will discuss a wide variety of topics including the nature of reality, knowledge, justice, the mind, the distinction between appearance and reality, subjectivity and objectivity, and the nature and significance of human life. We will also consider the role that cultural and political perspectives play in shaping our philosophical understanding of life’s deepest questions. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Critical Thinking and Philosophical Inquiry and Life’s Meaning.

**CAS PH 110 A1**  
**Great Philosophers**  
Professor Benjamin Crowe  
*Tuesday, Thursday 9:30AM-10:45AM*  
An introduction to philosophy through a reading of great figures in western thought. The list may include Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Rousseau, Nietzsche, Russell. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Historical Consciousness, Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Critical Thinking.

**CAS PH 150 A1**  
**Introduction to Ethics**  
Professor Daniel Star  
*Tuesday, Thursday 9:30AM-10:45AM*  
What is morality? What does morality require of us in our daily lives? We look both at theories that specify what morality requires of us and at specific moral issues to which these theories apply. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Ethical Reasoning, Critical Thinking.
**CAS PH 150 B1**  
**Introduction to Ethics**

Professor Aaron Garrett

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10AM-11:00AM*

An introduction to moral philosophy through historical and contemporary readings. Questions discussed will include: What sorts of reasons are there to be moral? Can luck influence moral value? What are the different types of normative moral theories? Are there unsolvable moral dilemmas? We will also discuss some practical moral issues, such as animal welfare and food ethics. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Ethical Reasoning, Critical Thinking.

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**CAS PH 150 C1**  
**Introduction to Ethics**

Professor Benjamin Crowe

*Tuesday, Thursday 3:30PM-4:45PM*

How ought I to live? What is the good life? What are the qualities that make a person good? Are all people self-interested, or is altruism possible? How can we evaluate moral judgments? Ethics is the enterprise of disciplined reflection on questions like these. In the first half of this course, we begin by examining both classic and contemporary philosophical approaches to these topics. In the second half of the course, we will investigate skeptical and feminist criticisms of these approaches, as well a prominent non-European (i.e., Confucian) stream of moral philosophy.

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**CAS PH 155 A1**  
**Politics and Philosophy**

Professor Charles Griswold

*Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:15PM*

This course is an introduction to several major themes and questions in political philosophy, such as: What is justice? Does a free and fair society include a free market? What, if anything, legitimizes the exercise of governmental power? What are the arguments for and against the "social contract"? Are anarchism and utopianism defensible? What are the foundations of property rights, liberty, and equality? Can and should politics be conducted philosophically? While quite a bit of attention will be given to modern European thought (and so to Jean-Jacques Rousseau, David Hume, Adam Smith, and Karl Marx, for example), we will also examine works both by contemporary authors and by Plato. Current topics (likely concerning immigration and global justice) will be discussed as well. Throughout, we will cultivate the fundamental philosophical skills of analysis and argumentation as we delve into issues of great contemporary importance. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Ethical Reasoning, Critical Thinking.

There are no prerequisites for this course.
**CAS PH 160 A1  Reason and Argumentation**

Professor Judson Webb

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:05AM-9:55AM*

A systematic study of the principles of both deductive and informal reasoning, calculated to enhance students' actual reasoning skills, with an emphasis on reasoning and argumentation in ordinary discourse. We will emphasize argumentation and criticism in ordinary life and also present formal models of reasoning designed to elicit underlying patterns and structures of reasoning and argumentation that are widely applicable. Simultaneous training in skills of argument analysis, argument pattern recognition, argument construction, and argument interpretation and creation. This course fulfills a single unit in the following BU Hub area(s): Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Critical Thinking.

**CAS PH 160 B1  Reason and Argumentation**

Professor Derek Anderson

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:20PM-1:10PM*

This course is an introduction to philosophical methods of inquiry and discourse. We will have three major aims. The first is philosophical. We aim to understand the nature of reason and argumentation; the course will serve as an introduction to logic, epistemology, and philosophy of language. The second is practical. We aim to improve our ability to reason, construct arguments, and identify fallacies. The third is social. Reason and argument are central to the process of social change. In order to achieve a more just society, we need to reason together and argue with one another in ways that facilitate change of belief in the direction of knowledge and social justice.

**CAS PH 245 A1  Religious Thought: The Quest for God and the Good**

Professor Diana Lobel

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:25PM-2:15PM*

An interactive seminar, investigating the meaning and purpose of human life, the significance of God or an Absolute, the role of contemplation and action in the spiritual quest, relationships between philosophy and religious thought, East and West. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy.
**CAS PH 248 A1**  
Existentialism

Professor Paul Katsafanas

*Monday, Wednesday 10:10AM-11:55AM*

The existentialists grappled with some of the most difficult and problematic aspects of the human condition. Is it possible to lead a meaningful life? Might life be unavoidably absurd? What is it to be an authentic individual? Can you be alienated from yourself? Can the way in which we are seen by others limit our freedom? Does modernity foster nihilism? Do certain emotional experiences reveal otherwise hidden features of life? In this course, we will explore the ways in which Fyodor Dostoevsky, Søren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Albert Camus responded to these questions. This course counts toward the following three HUB requirements: Philosophical Inquiry and Life’s Meanings; Ethical Reasoning; Critical Thinking.

**CAS PH 251 A1**  
Medical Ethics

Professor Russell Powell

*Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:15PM*

This course will survey ethical issues that arise in connection with medicine and emerging biotechnologies. It will examine topics such as the right to healthcare, research on human subjects, euthanasia, abortion, cloning, genetic selection, disabilities, and the biomedical enhancement of human capacities. Students can expect to gain not only training in the concepts and methods of moral philosophy and the logic of argumentation, but also the resources needed for assessing ethically difficult questions that healthcare professionals routinely face. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Philosophical Inquiry and Life’s Meanings, Ethical Reasoning, Critical Thinking.
This course introduces students to the received ethical-decision-theory for medical ethics—Principlism. We will begin by considering (1) what Principlism is. Then we will take each of the four core ethical principles—namely, Beneficence, Non-Maleficence, Respect for Patient Autonomy, and Justice—considering both (2) the philosophical support for its principles and (3) the conceptual and practical issues that emerge in applying these principles to medical theory and practice. Issues we will consider include:

- What is it to be happy? What is it to be healthy? What is the relation of disability to health and wellbeing?
- When does rationing health care bring undue harm to individual patients?
- What is death? Is death bad for the one who dies? Why is it wrong to kill someone? Is there a moral difference between killing and letting die?
- Why is it important to respect personal autonomy even at the expense of personal wellbeing? What is informed consent? How do policies of informed consent affect trans teens?
- Is it just to ban blood donations from men who have sex with men? What does justice demand of society regarding reproduction in same-sex couples? Are the categories of race and sex in medical practice justified? Do they lead to unjust practices?

Some of our most basic beliefs, when scrutinized, lead to absurd conclusions. For example, using only beliefs that seem uncontroverisal, we can conclude that motion is impossible, that everyone is bald, and it is impossible to give a surprise exam. Carefully scrutinizing the reasoning that leads to these absurdities often yields substantial philosophical insight. In this course, we will examine a number of such puzzles and paradoxes in detail. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Philosophical Inquiry and Life’s Meanings, Quantitative Reasoning I, Critical Thinking.
**CAS PH 266 A1**  
**Mind, Brain, and Self**

Professor Walter Hopp

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:05AM-9:55AM*

This course is devoted to considering some of the philosophical problems that arise when we consider the nature of the human mind. How are mind and body, or mind and brain, related to one another? What are some of the defining features of minds? Is there something special about consciousness that cannot be explained in physical terms? What are some of the available methodologies for studying consciousness? In this class, we will carefully examine what some of philosophy’s most capable historical and contemporary thinkers have to say about these issues.

**CAS PH 270 A1**  
**Philosophy of Science**

Professor Tian Yu Cao

*Tuesday, Thursday 9:30AM-10:45AM*

This introductory course is designed for those with little exposure to science. Main features of the scientific enterprise will be illustrated by examples in the study of physics, biology and psychology: the aims of scientific activities (understanding, prediction and control); the nature of scientific understanding (causal explanation with general applicability); scientific procedures (by which scientific theories are formulated, tested, accepted or rejected); the structure and interpretation of scientific theories (evidential support, models and hypotheses, laws and predictions; the cognitive significance of these components); the development of science (accumulation and/or revolution). Some concepts central to the natural and social sciences, (such as space, time, forces, atom and quantum; life and evolution, structure and function; facts, value and agents) will be examined carefully. Controversies among competing schools in the philosophy of science (logical positivism, falsificationism, historicism, social constructivism and feminism) over the objectivity and rationality of the scientific enterprise will also be discussed.

**CAS PH 272 A1**  
**Science, Technology, and Values**

Professor Alisa Bokulich

*Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:15PM*

The goal of this course is to come to a deeper and more reflective understanding of the nature of science and technology, their ethical implications, and their impact on society. In this course we shall examine some of the important ways in which science, technology, society, and values are interconnected. The course will include case studies of particular technologies such as AI, prescription drugs, GM crops, self-driving cars, nanotechnology, smartphones, and surveillance technologies.
**CAS PH 300 A1**  
**History of Ancient Philosophy**  
Professor Marc Gasser-Wingate  

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10AM-11:00AM*

A survey of ancient Greek philosophy, with an emphasis on Plato and Aristotle. Topics will include: the fundamental nature of reality, how we know anything about it, wisdom, virtue, and human happiness.

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**CAS PH 300 B1**  
**History of Ancient Philosophy**  
Professor David Roochnik  

*Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:15PM*

An introduction to the major thinkers of classical Greek philosophy, in particular Plato and Aristotle.

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**CAS PH 310 A1**  
**History of Modern Philosophy**  
Professor Daniel Dahlstrom  

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10AM-11:00AM*

An examination of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophy from Descartes to Kant, with emphasis on the nature and extent of knowledge. Readings include Descartes, Locke, Spinoza, Berkley, Hume, and Kant.

Prereq: one philosophy course or sophomore standing.

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**CAS PH 310 B1**  
**History of Modern Philosophy**  
Professor Aaron Garrett  

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:25PM-2:15PM*

An examination of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophy from Descartes to Kant, with emphasis on the nature and extent of knowledge and metaphysics. Readings include René Descartes, Princess Elizabeth, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Anne Conway, Benedict Spinoza, David Hume, and Immanuel Kant.
In this course we will examine major fault lines in the history of moral philosophy. From the ancient period, we will focus on the centuries-long battle between Epicureans and Stoics regarding the highest good, moral psychology, and other key issues. From the modern era, we will explore the moral philosophies of Immanuel Kant and John Stuart Mill, whose central ideas are still contested by loyal partisans to this day. Finally, we will look at the moral perfectionism and social ethics of two major thinkers in the British Idealist tradition, T.H. Green and F.H. Bradley, who criticized both the Kantian and utilitarian positions, and whose work set the stage for the subsequent development of moral theorizing in much of the English-speaking world.
CAS PH 412 A1 (Cross PH 612)  
**Enlightenment and Its Critics**

Professor James Schmidt  

**Wednesday 2:30PM-5:15PM**

Explores how eighteenth-century criticisms of the Enlightenment have been taken up by twentieth-century thinkers such as Heidegger, Horkheimer, Adorno, Gadamer, and Foucault; discusses recent defenses of Enlightenment ideals of reason, critique and autonomy by Habermas and others. Also offered as CAS PO 592 and CAS HI 514.

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CAS PH 427 A1 (Cross PH 627)  
**Heidegger and Existential Philosophy**

Professor Daniel Dahlstrom  

**Monday 2:30PM-5:15PM**

The aim of this seminar is to understand and examine critically Heidegger’s rationale for and manner of posing and addressing the question of what, in the case of human beings, it means to be. Heidegger pursues this question in his early, but unfinished work, *Being and Time*, and, hence, the seminar is thematically organized around this work. After an opening lecture, based in part on the introduction to *Being and Time*, the seminar is devoted to close scrutiny and discussion of the “existential analysis” in the text itself. An effort will be made to understand the interpretation of human existence given in *Being and Time* as a whole, despite its unfinished character. To this end, the seminar will take pains to cover the sweep of the entire text, including such themes as the analysis of the concept of world and the ontological significance of the use of tools in the workplace; the interpretation of the emotionally disposed understanding and discursiveness fundamental to being-here (*Da-sein*); the challenges to being genuine, rooted in our need to conform; the care that defines our being-here, especially as disclosed in moments of Angst; our being “about to die” and conscience’s call as a testimony to our genuine mortal potential; and the timeliness and historicity that provide the constitutive horizon or sense of an existence defined as care.
How do we reconcile the reality of racism and sexism with the difficulty of defining race and gender? How do race and gender intersect when it comes to social identity and scientific engagement? We will start by engaging with questions about the metaphysics and epistemology of race and gender. What is a racial category? What is gender? How do racism and sexism differently affect people from different ethnic, racial, and gendered backgrounds? How does being gendered and racialized influence what we know and how we are treated as knowers? What does it mean to 'pass' as one gender or race and identify as another? Finally, we will address applied issues in science and ethics.

Questions we will address include: Does medical science unfairly disadvantage women and members of racial minorities? Should the government pay reparations to people whose ancestors were slaves? What role is race playing in our K-12 education and foster care systems, and what does racial justice in education look like?
We know a lot. Or at least we act as though we do. But as soon as we reflect on some very fundamental questions about knowledge, matters get difficult. What is knowledge? Must all knowledge rest on a foundation, and if so, what is that foundation? How do we acquire knowledge, and what sorts of objects can we thereby come to know about? What does perceptual experience give us knowledge of, and how does it do so? By the end of this class, you will know (!) a number of major positions on these issues and the most notable arguments for and against them.
**Philosophy of the Social Sciences**

Professor Tian Yu Cao

*Tuesday 12:30PM-3:15PM*

After the introduction of some basic concepts in social sciences (sociology, anthropology, economics, and political science), such as structure and action, explanation and understanding, we will move to an illuminating examination of two of the most popular approaches in social sciences in recent decades: the rational choice approach (based on game theory) and the functionalist approach in economics, sociology and political science. The enduring philosophical questions, such as prediction and progress, reductionism and holism, rationality and relativism, facts and values, will also be examined in the context of social sciences.

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**Topics in the Philosophy of Science**

Professor Alisa Bokulich

*Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:15PM*

A discussion-based introduction to core issues in the philosophy of science, focusing on the topics of scientific realism, theory change, reductionism, explanation, models, and natural kinds.

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**History of Feminist Theory**

Professor Virginia Sapiro

*Tuesday 3:30PM-6:15PM*

*Undergraduate Prerequisites: junior standing or consent of instructor.* Explore selected writing from the history of feminist theory, 18th century to the rise of the late-20th century feminist movement, to understand the richness of that history and the varieties of approaches theorists took in understanding and resisting gender-based oppression. *Meets with CAS WS 594 and PO 594.*
Graduate Courses
**CAS PH 605 A1 (Cross PH 405) | Aristotle I**

Professor David Roochnik

*Thursday 6:30PM-9:15PM*

A close reading of Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*.

**CAS PH 612 A1 (Cross PH 412) | Philosophy of the Enlightenment**

Professor James Schmidt

*Wednesday 2:30PM-5:15PM*

Explores how eighteenth-century criticisms of the Enlightenment have been taken up by twentieth-century thinkers such as Heidegger, Horkheimer, Adorno, Gadamer, and Foucault; discusses recent defenses of Enlightenment ideals of reason, critique and autonomy by Habermas and others. Also offered as CAS PO 592 and CAS HI 514.

**CAS PH 627 A1 (Cross PH 427) | Heidegger and Existential Philosophy**

Professor Daniel Dahlstrom

*Monday 2:30PM-5:15PM*

The aim of this seminar is to understand and examine critically Heidegger’s rationale for and manner of posing and addressing the question of what, in the case of human beings, it means to be. Heidegger pursues this question in his early, but unfinished work, *Being and Time*, and, hence, the seminar is thematically organized around this work. After an opening lecture, based in part on the introduction to *Being and Time*, the seminar is devoted to close scrutiny and discussion of the “existential analysis” in the text itself. An effort will be made to understand the interpretation of human existence given in *Being and Time* as a whole, despite its unfinished character. To this end, the seminar will take pains to cover the sweep of the entire text, including such themes as the analysis of the concept of world and the ontological significance of the use of tools in the workplace; the interpretation of the emotionally disposed understanding and discursiveness fundamental to being-here (*Da-sein*); the challenges to being genuine, rooted in our need to conform; the care that defines our being-here, especially as disclosed in moments of *Angst*; our being “about to die” and conscience’s call as a testimony to our genuine mortal potential; and the timeliness and historicity that provide the constitutive horizon or sense of an existence defined as care.
CAS PH 633 A1 (Cross PH 360)  Symbolic Logic

Professor Marc Gasser-Wingate

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:20PM-1:10PM

A survey of the concepts and principles of symbolic logic: valid and invalid arguments, logical relations between statements and their basis in the structural features of those statements, the analysis of complex statements of ordinary discourse to uncover their structure, and the use of a symbolic language to express logical structure and facilitate the methodical assessment of arguments. Hub credit: Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Quantitative Reasoning I, Critical Thinking.

CAS PH 636 A1 (Cross PH 436)  Gender, Race, and Science

Professor Samia Hesni

Monday 6:30PM-9:15PM

How do we reconcile the reality of racism and sexism with the difficulty of defining race and gender? How do race and gender intersect when it comes to social identity and scientific engagement? We will start by engaging with questions about the metaphysics and epistemology of race and gender. What is a racial category? What is gender? How do racism and sexism differently affect people from different ethnic, racial, and gendered backgrounds? How does being gendered and racialized influence what we know and how we are treated as knowers? What does it mean to 'pass' as one gender or race and identify as another? Finally, we will address applied issues in science and ethics. Questions we will address include: Does medical science unfairly disadvantage women and members of racial minorities? Should the government pay reparations to people whose ancestors were slaves? What role is race playing in our K-12 education and foster care systems, and what does racial justice in education look like?

CAS PH 651 A1  The Color Line, Resistance, and Reparations

Professor David Lyons

Wednesday 2:10PM-4:10PM

This seminar examines the oppressive role of race and ethnicity in American society from the early colonial period to the present, resistance to that oppression, and the moral case for both resistance and reparations. It will focus mainly on the experiences of Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latino Americans. Each seminar session will begin with a presentation by a seminar member, for which a schedule will be developed after the first seminar meeting. Readings will be mainly historical but will also include relevant cases, legislation, and philosophical writings. Grades will be based primarily on the term paper, on an approved topic, which is written after comments have been received on a polished draft; class participation will also be considered. This seminar originates in the Law School, complies with the Law School’s calendar and schedule, and most seminar members are most likely to be upper-class law students.
**CAS PH 656 A1 (Cross PH 456)  
Topics in Philosophy and Religion**

Professor David Eckel

*Wednesday 5:45PM-8:30PM*

Topic for Fall 2019: Wisdom and Transformation. A study of the relationship between wisdom and moral transformation in several different philosophical and religions, from ancient Greece to the modern day, including an encounter with the classical traditions of India and China. This course is designed to run side by side with the Institute for Philosophy and Religion’s fall lecture series.

**CAS PH 660 A1 (Cross PH 460)  
Epistemology**

Professor Walter Hopp

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:20PM-1:10PM*

We know a lot. Or at least we act as though we do. But as soon as we reflect on some very fundamental questions about knowledge, matters get difficult. What is knowledge? Must all knowledge rest on a foundation, and if so, what is that foundation? How do we acquire knowledge, and what sorts of objects can we thereby come to know about? What does perceptual experience give us knowledge of, and how does it do so? By the end of this class, you will know (!) a number of major positions on these issues and the most notable arguments for and against them.

**CAS PH 661 A1 (Cross PH 461)  
Mathematical Logic**

Professor Akihiro Kanamori

*Tuesday, Thursday 9:30AM-10:45AM*

The investigation of logical reasoning with mathematical methods. The syntax and semantics of sentential logic and quantificational logic. The unifying Godel Completeness Theorem, and models of theories. A look at the Godel Incompleteness Theorem and its ramifications. This course fulfills a single unit in the following BU Hub area: Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings.

**CAS PH 663 A1 (Cross PH 463)  
Philosophy of Language**

Professor Elizabeth Coppock

*Thursday 3:30PM-6:15PM*

Critical survey of the main issues in the philosophy of language and the foundations of linguistics, including the ideas of logical form and the universality of languages as well as the basic ideas of generative grammar, possible-worlds semantics, Wittgenstein, and speech-act theories.
**CAS PH 677 A1 (Cross PH 477)  Philosophy of the Social Sciences**

Professor Tian Yu Cao

*Tuesday 12:30PM-3:15PM*

After the introduction of some basic concepts in social sciences (sociology, anthropology, economics, and political science), such as structure and action, explanation and understanding, we will move to an illuminating examination of two of the most popular approaches in social sciences in recent decades: the rational choice approach (based on game theory) and the functionalist approach in economics, sociology and political science. The enduring philosophical questions, such as prediction and progress, reductionism and holism, rationality and relativism, facts and values, will also be examined in the context of social sciences.

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**CAS PH 687 A1 (Cross PH 487)  Topics in the Philosophy of Science**

Professor Alisa Bokulich

*Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:15PM*

A discussion-based introduction to core issues in the philosophy of science, focusing on the topics of scientific realism, theory change, reductionism, explanation, models, and natural kinds.

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**GRS PH 812 A1  Kant’s Theoretical Philosophy**

Professor Sally Sedgwick

*Tuesday 3:30PM-6:15PM*

The focus of this course is Kant’s metaphysics and theory of knowledge. We will begin with a brief review of some of David Hume’s skeptical arguments concerning human knowledge, then explore how the *Critique of Pure Reason* is Kant’s effort to “save” metaphysics from Hume’s skepticism. Among further topics to be considered: Kant’s treatment of the nature of space, his account of role the pure concepts of understanding (the “categories”) in making our experience possible, his argument in defense of the view that we have some material or non-conceptual knowledge that is necessary. In the final weeks of the course, we will explore his claim that his particular form of idealism provides the foundation for human freedom.
Do we have any kind of privileged access to our own mental activities? Or is our knowledge of our own minds analogous to our knowledge of the minds of others? If we do have privileged access, how is this to be reconciled with the fact that we display pervasive self-ignorance? And how does self-ignorance relate to ethical life? Is self-ignorance something to be lamented and corrected, or might there be ways in which it is laudable? We’ll read recent work on these and related topics. Authors may include Richard Moran, Matt Boyle, John Doris, Nomy Arpaly, Michael Thompson, Quassim Cassam, Jonathan Lear, Alex Byrne, Iris Murdoch, and G.E.M. Anscombe. We’ll also read some examples of self-ignorance/self-knowledge in literature and discuss the way in which these relate to the philosophical discussions (excerpts from Proust, perhaps also from Ismail Kadare, Han Kang, Kazuo Ishiguru, Lauren Groff, and others).

This seminar is open only to first-year PhD students in philosophy, all of whom are required to enroll. The seminar is designed to help incoming graduate students hone several invaluable philosophical skills, including those needed for effective presentation and defense of one's ideas. Topics vary by semester.

Dissertation Workshop. Required for all Philosophy Ph.D. students in their fourth through sixth years.

A workshop seminar offering advanced graduate students the opportunity to present and discuss work-in-progress (dissertation chapters, papers for job applications, journal submissions). A serious commitment to regular and continuing attendance is expected.