Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality

We will read and discuss some imaginative literature, brief philosophical classics, and short philosophical analyses, which deal with problems about the nature of human knowledge and the constitution of reality. For example we will ask: What do you know for certain? Does God exist? Is there a difference between humans and machines?

Philosophy 1204: Morality and Justice

Examines the questions: What is the nature of reality? How do I know what is real and what is misleading appearance, error, or illusion? What is the nature of human knowledge and the constitution of reality. For example we will ask: What do you know for certain? Does God exist? Is there a difference between humans and machines?

What should our ultimate goal in life be? Is living morally most conducive to true happiness? What in general makes something right or wrong? Is it always possible for a good enough end to justify bad means, or do considerations of justice sometimes preclude this? Does morality depend on the commands of God? Are there really objective facts about right or wrong, perhaps transcending differences across cultures and times, or is morality ultimately subjective and/or "relative"? Does anyone ever really act from unselfish motives? Some more particular problems: Is it morally justifiable to use human embryonic stem cells for research or tissue therapy? If so, is it right to deliberately create embryos for the purpose of harvesting stem cells (which destroys the embryos)? Can abortion ever be morally justified, and if so, how? In what cases might euthanasia be morally permissible? Is capital punishment morally justifiable in principle? In practice? How far does our duty to aid distant strangers extend? Is it morally acceptable to cause harm to non-human animals in biomedical research?

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 RAND 316 F
Instructor: W. FitzPatrick
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 SQUIR 316 F
Instructor: W. FitzPatrick
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 MCB 210 F
Instructor: W. FitzPatrick
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 SHULT 109 F
Instructor: W. FitzPatrick
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 MCB 209 F
Instructor: W. FitzPatrick
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 9:05-9:55 MCB 202 F
Instructor: W. FitzPatrick
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 SHULT 109 F
Instructor: W. FitzPatrick
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 9:05-9:55 SHULT 109 F

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

This is a synchronous multi-media distance (computer-based) course that uses a web-based platform. It is not a regular lecture course, but rather one that will be taught at a distance using a computer. We will have synchronous (live) classes using Centra Symposium software as well as pre-recorded sessions. Lectures will be over the computer, with a PowerPoint format. The Centra software allows for live two-way voice communication over headphones. There will be a classroom equipped with computers reserved for