Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Science
Course Organiser: Michela Massimi
Seminars: Thursday 11:10-13:00
The course, consisting of lectures and seminars, will be structured around three core topics in contemporary philosophy of science. Natural kinds, causation, and laws of nature are deeply interconnected metaphysical notions. Are there natural kinds carving nature at its joints? Is causation an objective feature of nature? And, to what extent do our laws of nature express causal dispositions, and are read off from natural kinds? In the first part of this course, we focus on natural kinds, and a series of epistemological, metaphysical and semantic issues surrounding them. In the second part, we turn to causation with an emphasis on causal republicanism, causal realism, Humeanism and causal perspectivalism. Finally, in part three, we explore laws of nature with a focus on dispositional essentialism, non-governing conception of laws, and lawlessness.

Aesthetics
Course Organiser: Theodore Scaltsas
Lectures: Wednesday 11:10-12:00  Tutorials: Wednesday 12:10-13:00
The course will introduce students to some central topics in contemporary aesthetics, including the nature of art, aesthetic experience, and issues arising in the philosophy of the particular arts. The course will examine theories of beauty, the arts and the aesthetic in contemporary thinkers, while also considering historical treatments of these topics. Topics discussed will include aesthetic experience, beauty, art, the aesthetics of nature, forgery, emotion, truth and morality.

Ancient Ethics
Course Organiser: Theodore Scaltsas
Lectures: Monday 12:10-13:00  Tutorials: Tuesday (Group 1) 15:10-16:00, (Group 2) 16:10-17:00
The course will examine theories of virtue and the good in ancient thinkers. We will use Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics as our main text, but comparisons will be made with the views of Plato and of Hellenistic philosophers. Topics discussed will include the human good, moral and intellectual virtues, responsibility, pleasure, friendship, and the place of philosophy in the good life. The impact of ancient theories of virtue on later thought will also be considered.

Ancient Theories of Existence
Course Organiser: Theodore Scaltsas
Seminars: Wednesday 11:10-13:00
The course will examine different ancient theories of being. We discuss some Presocratic approaches to the problem of being (notably, Heraclitus and Parmenides), Plato's theory of forms and Aristotle's theory of substance, and the ontologies of the most prominent Hellenistic schools (Epicurean, Stoic and Sceptic).
**Applied Ethics**

*Course Organiser: David Levy*

*Seminars: Tuesday 14:10-16:00*

This course will consider the application of ethical theory to cases, imagined and real. This year, special emphasis will be given to the issue of humanity and its relations to rights, needs and genetic enhancement. The first part of the course will begin with topics that have received considerable philosophical debate, such as abortion and euthanasia. From these we will move toward contemporary issues, e.g. future challenges arising from the application of technology to medical science. Overall we will be concerned to understand the role that applied ethics can play in meeting these challenges. Similarly we will be seeking to understand the limits of applied ethics and philosophy, more generally, in these arenas, especially in contrast to the considerations that may apply in making social policies.

We will not be discussing the following topics that often feature in applied ethics courses: engineering, environmental, legal, medical, healthcare, information, political ethics or animal rights.

**Environmental Ethics**

*Course Organiser: Matthew Chrisman*

*Lectures: Wednesday 10:00-10:50  Tutorials: Thursday (Group 1) 15:10-16:00 (Group 2) 16:10-17:00*

This course examines some of the central theoretical and practical ethical questions arising out of the distinctive relation human beings have to the natural environment. The first half of the course will focus on theoretical topics, such as (nonexhaustive list): (i) how we should reason under uncertainty in long timescales, (ii) the nature and appropriate distribution of what's valuable, (iii) Parfit's 'non-identity problem' and 'repugnant conclusion', (iv) externalities, multi-generational prisoner's dilemmas, and tragedies of the commons, etc. The second half of the course will explore a variety of practical topics raised by environmental ethics, such as (nonexhaustive list): (i) carbon offsetting, (ii) direct action, (iii) cap and trade, (iv) geopolitical processes such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, (v) population control, (vi) food issues like genetically engineered crops and vegetarianism, (vii) the discount rates to use in economic models of the costs and benefits of mitigating climate change, etc.

**Free Will and Moral Responsibility**

*Course Organiser: Elinor Mason*

*Seminars: Tuesday 11:10-13:00*

The course covers the main issues in the philosophical debates about freedom, determinism, and moral responsibility. Among the more specific topics that may be addressed: Formulations of determinism; historical responses; Frankfurt style examples (designed to show that moral responsibility for an action does not require the ability to act differently); Strawson’s account of the reactive emotions; compatibilist theories about the nature of responsibility and freedom; moral luck; the difference between excuses and justifications; the relevance of ignorance; collective responsibility.

**Metaphysical and Epistemological Issues in Feminism**

*Course Organiser: Elinor Mason*

*Seminars: Thursday 14:10-16:00*

The course will introduce and examine metaphysical and conceptual issues related to feminist philosophy. In this course we will critically examine theoretical frameworks for thinking about gender and inequality. A feminist approach to philosophy may demand new concepts, and a new account of old concepts. We will cover topics such as the metaphysics of gender: whether gender is real, innate, socially constructed, a useful concept, and so on; the nature and mechanisms of oppression, and whether we can understand oppression without thinking about intersectionality; the nature of false consciousness, and other feminist issues in social epistemology.
**Logic 2: Modal Logic**  
*Course Organiser: Anders Schoubye*  
*Lectures: Monday 10:00-12:00*  
This course is a follow-on course to Logic 1 focusing predominantly on modal extensions of classical propositional and first-order logic. Modal logic is standardly known as the logic of necessity and possibility, but this course will also focus on so-called deontic logic (the logic of obligations and permissions), epistemic logic (the logic of knowledge), and possibly temporal logic (the logic of time).

**Phenomenology: Merleau-Ponty**  
*Course Organiser: Dave Ward*  
*Lectures: Friday 11:10-12:00  Tutorials: Friday (Group 1) 12:10-13:00 (Group 2) 14:10-15:00*  
Focusing on the work of Merleau-Ponty, this course will introduce students to the philosophical movement of Phenomenology - an influential research programme that flourished in the early 20th century, and aimed to draw fundamental philosophical conclusions from careful consideration of the structures of experience and thought.

**Philosophical Issues in Evolution**  
*Course Organiser: Alistair Isaac*  
*Lectures: Tuesday 10:00-10:50  Tutorials: Tuesday (Group 1) 11:10-12:00 (Group 2) 12:10-13:00*  
This course will offer detailed seminars on key philosophical issues in evolution and evolutionary theory. No background in biology or life-sciences will be assumed, and the course is intended to be accessible to students with a wide range of philosophical interests and aptitudes.

**Philosophy of Language**  
*Course Organiser: Brian Rabern*  
*Seminars: Mondays 14:10-16:00*  
This course is an introduction to some central themes in the philosophy of language—with a primarily focus on the relationship between meaning and reference. We will study a range of classical and contemporary theories about the semantics of referring expressions such as proper names, definite descriptions, and indexicals. Throughout we will explore some of the far-reaching consequences that the issues concerning meaning and reference have for broader philosophical questions.

**Philosophy of Law**  
*Course Organiser: Martin Smith*  
*Seminars: Friday 14:10-16:00*  
This course will introduce students to a number of topics and questions in contemporary philosophy of law. There will be particular emphasis on the ways in which philosophy of law overlaps and interacts with legal theory and with other branches of philosophy such as moral philosophy, political philosophy and epistemology. Topics to be covered in the course may include the normativity of the law, the relationship between law and morality, standards of legal proof, the presumption of innocence, the nature of legal precedent and of legal reasoning, the legal notion of evidence, legal rights and obligations and the ultimate aims of a legal system. The course may also include, in any given year, an examination of legal topics of particular contemporary interest, such as the use of ‘cold hit’ DNA evidence in the courtroom or the corroboration rule in Scots law.

**Philosophy of Psychology**  
*Course Organiser: Alistair Isaac*  
*Seminars: Friday 09:00-10:50*  
This course will survey philosophical issues particular to the scientific study of the mind, with a special focus on the methodology and explanatory practices of psychology. We will cover questions such as: Can subjective reports count as evidence? Is "unconscious inference" a coherent concept? Are there mental images? What can evolution tell us about our minds? Do mental representations considered as computational states "mean" anything?
Philosophy of Religion
Course Organiser: Patrick Todd
Seminars: Thursday 14:10-16:00
The course will cover a range of issues in contemporary philosophy of religion. Topics covered will include reason and faith; the nature of religious language; issues connected with the idea of God, including the concepts of eternity and omnipotence; arguments for belief in God (including ontological, cosmological and teleological arguments); the problem of evil; the relation of religion to morality.

The Philosophy of Simone Weil
Course Organiser: David Levy
Seminars: Tuesday 11:10-13:00
This course will study Simone Weil’s philosophy, including her philosophies of labour and justice; and her conceptions of morality and moral personality. Study will proceed through a close reading of central essays or extracts from collected notes and notebooks. Discussion will focus on her texts, less so those of interpreters, so students will learn to read her work. The course will highlight the movement from earlier views oriented around action to later views oriented around attention. This course is oriented around a single philosopher and her work, but attention will also fall on the connections between Weil’s philosophy and enduring difficulties in the philosophies of Descartes and Plato; as well as the impact on recent philosophers such as Iris Murdoch and Peter Winch. Limited consideration will be given to Weil’s writings on spirituality. The focus is philosophical.

The Philosophy of Well-Being
Course Organiser: Guy Fletcher
Seminars: Tuesday 14:10-16:00
This course will examine well-being, a central topic in philosophy. It has two (roughly equal) parts. In part 1 we examine the main theories of well-being. In part 2 we examine some general theoretical issues connected to well-being.

Reason and Experience
Course Organiser: Pauline Phemister
Lectures: Friday 12:10-14:00
The course will provide a critical overview of themes from 17th century philosophy from Descartes to Berkeley. Issues covered in this course include the nature of material and immaterial substances; the self and its relation to its body and to the non-human world in general; attitudes regarding animals and other living organisms; inanimate bodies and the mechanical philosophy; epistemological scepticism; innatism; sense perception, imagination, intellect; the epistemological role of language and abstract ideas; and moral issues concerning freewill and determinism and the nature of God and theodicy.

Self, Agency and the Will
Course Organiser: Till Vierkant
Seminars: Thursday 16:10-18:00
This course will provide an introduction to one of the most exciting debates in the interdisciplinary field between philosophy and the cognitive sciences. The course will examine the relationship between our phenomenal sense of agency and the sub-personal behavioural control layers that scientific psychology and the neurosciences describe.

The Structure of Being
Course Organiser: Dory Scaltsas
Seminars: Thursday 11:10-13:00
The course will focus on the ontology of what there is. Such topics as subjects & essences; parts & wholes; properties & relations; matter & form hylomorphism will be studied.