Ancient Theories of Mind  
Course Organiser: Inna Kupreeva  
Seminars: Thursday 09:00-10:50  
Introduction to the main theories of mind of Greek philosophy (Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus and Stoics), with sessions on Pre-Socratics, Greek medical schools, and Neoplatonism. We shall consider questions of definition and structure of the soul, its main functions, the seat of the soul in the human body, the problem of mind and the mental; place of mind in the world.

Belief, Desire and Rational Choice  
Course Organiser: Wolfgang Schwartz  
Seminars: 09:00-10:50  
This course introduces the basics of contemporary decision theory, discusses general norms on rational belief and desire, and investigates whether decision theory can serve as a functionalist framework to define the concepts of (graded) belief and desire.

The Computational Mind  
Course Organiser: Mark Sprevak  
Seminars: Wednesday 09:00-10:50  
Computation appears to be our best hope for explaining how the mind works. Over the past forty years, computational models have scored numerous successes in explaining various mental phenomena. Today, computation dominates cognitive science. This course introduces the computational approach to the mind and explores some foundational questions and challenges that it faces. Topics covered by the course include: What is a computation? If the mind is a computer, what kind is it? Is computation a real feature of brain, or a projection of our interests? Can consciousness be explained by computation? Are cognitive computations in the brain or do they spill into the environment?

The Early Continentals: Hegel and Nietzsche  
Course Organiser: Dave Ward  
Lectures: Friday 10:00-10:50  Tutorials: tba  
This course will introduce students to the ideas of Hegel and Nietzsche, and examine the influence these thinkers had on the analytic and continental traditions in philosophy. The course will focus on reading and understanding key passages from Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit and Nietzsche’s Genealogy of Morals. An important background figure on the course will be Kant, and we will begin by reading some important sections from his Critique of Pure Reason. We will compare and contrast the ways in which Hegel and Nietzsche both sought to articulate and overcome philosophical problems inherited from Kant. Where helpful, we will also take brief detours into the works of other thinkers who influenced or reacted to Kant, Hegel and Nietzsche, such as Fichte, Schelling and Schopenhauer. By the end of the course we will be in a
position to appreciate and assess the historic trajectory of philosophical thought that runs from Kant through Hegel and Nietzsche, and look ahead to the divergent paths this trajectory has taken in contemporary philosophy.

**Feminism**  
**Course Organiser: Elinor Mason**  
**Seminars: Thursday 11:10-13:00**

In this course we will examine philosophical approaches to feminism and feminist issues. Topics covered may include inequality in the work place and in family structures; global feminism; the relationships between lesbian and feminist philosophy; issues around sex and sexuality, including the objectification of the female body, pornography and prostitution.

**Food for Thought: The Ethics of Food Choices**  
**Course Organiser: Anders Schoubye**  
**Lectures: Monday 16:10-17:00  Tutorials: tba**

The purpose of this course is to consider and discuss some of the ethical challenges related to current food production practices, food consumption, and food policies. The course will cover issues such as (a) the moral status of non-human animals, i.e. whether non-human animals have rights, (b) arguments in favor of adopting vegetarian or vegan diets, (c) environmental and health related costs of food production and the recent focus on local, organic, and "sustainable" foods, (d) food policy choices that have disproportionately negative impacts on minorities and children.

**History of Analytic Philosophy**  
**Course Organiser: Bryan Pickel**  
**Lectures: Monday 12:10-13:00  Tutorials: tba**

Towards the beginning of the twentieth century, a rich and influential tradition known as Analytic Philosophy emerged, which became predominate style of philosophy in the English speaking world. In this course, we will look at the early history of this movement, as reflected in the works of Frege, Russell, and Moore.

**Kant’s Critical Philosophy**  
**Course Organiser: Alix Cohen**  
**Seminars: Monday 09:00-10:50**

The work of the German Enlightenment philosopher Immanuel Kant continues to have an extraordinary influence in philosophy. As well as its contributions to metaphysics, epistemology, the philosophy of mind, and moral philosophy, it offers one of the most significant and intricate reflections on the nature of philosophy itself. This course provides an introduction to some of the central issues in Kant’s philosophy. Its main objective is to engage the student in a critical and detailed analysis so as to gain a firm understanding of both the overall structure and the central theses of one of the most important works in the history of philosophy. It will highlight the role of Transcendental Philosophy in the wider context of Kant’s philosophy as well as its importance for the further development of philosophy.

**Knowledge, Ignorance and Power**  
**Course Organiser: Aidan McGlynn**  
**Seminars: Friday 11:10-13.00**

This course will introduce and examine a range of topics at the intersection of epistemology and political/social/feminist philosophy, examining our actual epistemic practices in light of the relations of power and subordination that exist between differently placed groups in society, and looking at different proposals for how this should shape our theorizing about knowledge and ignorance.

**Meta-Ethics**  
**Course Organiser: Debbie Roberts**  
**Seminars: Monday 14:10-16:00**

If ethics is the general investigation of what is right/wrong, good/bad, what one may/ought to do, etc. then metaethics is the investigation of the nature of ethical judgments and facts. This involves questions about: (i) the objectivity and psychology of ethical judgment, (ii) the existence, nature and knowability of ethical facts, and (iii) the meaning of ethical terms and the sentences in which they figure. This course will introduce
students this area of philosophy, which is an interesting arena for the interaction of moral theory, metaphysics, ontology, moral psychology, and the philosophy of language. We consider a wide range of metaphorical theories which may include non-naturalism, emotivism, error-theory, naturalism, expressivism, and fictionalism. Through this, students will gain an overview of twentieth century meta-ethics and exposure to some recent developments. In addition to students interested in ethical theory, this course will be relevant to those interested in metaphysics, epistemology, and the theory of meaning.

Metaphysics
Course Organiser: Nick Treanor
Lectures: Thursday 13:10-14:00  Tutorials: tba
This course will introduce and examine a number of central issues in contemporary metaphysics. Metaphysics is the study of the most basic and general features of reality. This course will focus on a range of traditional and contemporary problems in metaphysics. Specific topics to be discussed may include: universals and particulars; objects, properties and events; composition and constitution; the nature of necessity and possibility; fundamentality; ontological dependence; realism and anti-realism about truth; conceptual relativity; and the question 'Why is there something rather than nothing?'

Metaphysics of Mind
Course Organiser: Jesper Kallestrup
Seminars: Thursday 16:10-18.00
This course focuses on the two mind-body problems. The first concerns mental causation. We tend to behave in such a way that our desires are fulfilled if our beliefs are true. But how can mental states cause our body to move? The second part concerns consciousness. If our best physical sciences are right, then our world is entirely composed of physical objects and properties. But how do we place consciousness in such a world?

The Nature of Moral Understanding
Course Organiser: David Levy
Seminars: Tuesday 11:10-13:00
The central question we will address is: what is the nature of the understanding someone has when he or she engages with moral challenges? These challenges arise in relatively ordinary situations of the kinds presented in life, literature and film. These situations include decisions about what to do, wondering how to live, questions of whether one is under a moral obligation, contemplation of shame or guilt. We will consider, for example, what makes something a moral matter, whether I have a duty to myself, whether others can oblige me and whether morality is principally about what to do. The course is in three sections. First we will compare the predominant approach to morality with an alternative. Second we will consider specific moral phenomena like forgiveness, individuality and remorse. Third we will consider the interpersonal dimension of morality as seen in argument, persuasion and absurdity.

The Philosophy of Fiction
Course Organiser: Aidan McGlynn
Seminars: Wednesday 11:10-13:00
This course will introduce and examine a number of philosophical issues raised by fiction, covering topics at the intersection of aesthetics and epistemology, metaphysics, and the philosophies of language and mind: the nature of fiction; whether fictional characters exist and if so, what they are; whether we can gain real-world knowledge from engaging with fiction; the problem of "imaginative resistance" (why we cannot 'suspend disbelief' on things like principles of morality when engaging with fiction); and the "paradox of fiction" (how can we, for example, fear Darth Vader when we don't believe he really exists), and whether we need a new psychological state (an 'alief' in Gendler's terminology) to solve it.

The Philosophy of David Hume
Course Organiser: Andrew Mason
Lectures: Monday 11:10-12:00  Tutorials: tba
The course introduces the thought of Edinburgh's most famous philosopher, David Hume. It focuses on Hume's general philosophy (his moral philosophy being covered in Philosophy of the Scottish Enlightenment). The primary reading for the course will be Hume's Enquiry Concerning Human
Understanding: we will also make some use of the first book of his Treatise of Human Nature and of the Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion.

**Philosophy of Science Honours**

**Course Organiser:** TBA  
**Seminars:** Thursday 14:10-16:00  
The aim of this course is to provide a more advanced introduction to Philosophy of Science for Honours students, with an interest in the subject area. The course is a continuation of the pre-Hon. Philosophy of Science 1, although the latter is not a pre-requisite for it. Students will be exposed to a wide-range of topics suitable for 3rd and 4th year students: from the logic of confirmation, to underdetermination of theory by evidence, from models and simulations in science, to scientific representation, among others.

**The Philosophy of Wittgenstein**

**Course Organiser:** David Levy  
**Seminars:** Tuesday 14:10-16:00  
This course will study Wittgenstein’s early and later philosophy, concentrating on the Tractatus Logico-philosophicus and Philosophical Investigations. We will learn to read Wittgenstein’s own work, especially the Tractatus and the later sections on rule-following and private language. The course will highlight the differences between his earlier view of language and his later view based on language-games, while also noting the considerable points of continuity in Wittgenstein's philosophy. This course is oriented around a single philosopher and his work, but attention will also be given to the connections between Wittgenstein's philosophy and enduring problems in philosophy as seen in the work of Plato, Descartes and Kant.

**Political Philosophy**

**Course Organiser:** Guy Fletcher  
**Seminars:** Tuesday 09:00-10:50  
The course will be divided into two related parts, each concerned in some way with contemporary liberalism. The first part will examine Rawls’ Justice as Fairness and his conception of political liberalism. The second part will address the question of what restrictions on individual liberty modern states are justified in imposing.

**Puzzles and Paradoxes**

**Course Organiser:** Brian Rabern  
**Seminars:** Friday 13:10-15:00  
Paradoxes have formed a central topic of philosophical investigation, stretching back from Zeno of Elea up to David Lewis. Paradoxes figure both in influential arguments for philosophical theses and in famous (alleged) refutations of philosophical theses. Bertrand Russell advised that one should "stock the mind with as many puzzles as possible, since these serve much the same purpose [in philosophy] as is served by experiments in physical science". This course provides an overview of a number of famous philosophical puzzles and paradoxes and important attempts to solve them. In so doing students will be introduced to some important issues in philosophy of language, philosophical logic, decision theory, and formal epistemology. The course will put emphasis on both methodology and philosophical content: (i) method: emphasis will be put on the deployment of logical and formal methods in the service of philosophical problems, (ii) content: the main philosophical themes will center around the nature of reference, truth, rational belief, and knowledge. The puzzles and paradoxes to be discussed include Russell’s paradox, the liar paradox, the sorites paradox, Cartwright’s paradox, Bhartrhari’s paradox, Frege’s puzzle, the puzzle of empty names, the surprise exam paradox, the paradox of knowability, the preface paradox, the St. Petersburg paradox, among others. With critical engagement as a primary goal the course sessions will be discussion oriented and include various peer-teaching activities.

**Spinoza and Leibniz**

**Course Organiser:** Pauline Phemister  
**Seminars:** Thursday 10:00-12:00  
The course will introduce students to the philosophical systems of the gigantic figures in the history of philosophy, Spinoza and Leibniz. It will explore how, while responding critically to but still working within the framework of Cartesian dualism, Spinoza and Leibniz respectively transformed the Cartesian philosophy in
two radically different directions, resulting in (i) Spinoza’s absolute monism and, in critical response also to Spinoza, (ii) the dynamic, pluralist philosophical system of Leibniz.

**Themes in Epistemology**  
**Course Organiser:** Martin Smith  
**Seminars:** Tuesday 11:10-13:00  
This course introduces students to a number of major ideas and themes in contemporary epistemology. We will examine debates about the nature of knowledge and of justified belief, and cover topics including scepticism, contextualism, pragmatic encroachment, knowledge-first epistemology, reliabilism and a little formal epistemology.

**Theory of Virtue**  
**Course Organiser:** Andrew Mason  
**Lectures:** Wednesday 11:10-12:00  
**Tutorials:** tba  
The course will introduce students to central ideas in the theory of virtue from the ancient, early modern and contemporary periods, illustrating the development of this area of moral philosophy, the various ways in which the concept of virtue has been interpreted, and the different views which have been held about its significance for ethics.

**SEMESTER 2**  
*Please note courses may clash – please check carefully before choosing.*

**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:** Andrew Mason  
**Lectures:** Wednesday 11:10-12:00  
**Tutorials:** tba  
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:** Andrew Mason  
**Lectures:** Monday 12:10-13:00  
**Tutorials:** tba  
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: Dory 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: tba
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.

Formal Semantics for Philosophers
Course Organiser: Anders Schoubye
Seminars: Monday 16:10-18:00
Formal semantics is a subfield of linguistics and philosophy of language that aims at providing a formal analysis of meaning. More specifically a systematic method for recursively and compositionally deriving the truth conditions of sentences of natural language. This systematic method relies on the use of a number of mathematical and logical tools and this course is intended as an introduction to this general project. The two primary aims of the course are to provide a general understanding of the mathematical and logical tools standardly used in formal semantics and of the complex issues that any formal analysis of natural language inevitably faces. Formal semantics is now an essential part of the philosophy of language and often has wide-reaching impact in other philosophical areas such as (formal) epistemology, logic, philosophy of mind, metaethics etc.

Free Will and Moral Responsibility
Course Organiser: Patrick Todd
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.

**Modal Logic**  
Course Organiser: Anders Schoubye  
**Lectures: Monday 10:00-10:50  Tutorials tba**

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: tba**

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: tba**

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: Mark Sprevak  
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 12:10-13:00  
Tutorials: tba  
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.

**Semantic Externalism**
**Course Organiser: Jesper Kallestrup**
**Seminars: Tuesday 16:10-18:00**
This course is about semantic externalism and its discontents - the view that propositional contents and hence the contents of intentional mental states are individuated in part by facts external to the individual who are in those states. We will first look at Putnam's influential twin-earth argument and the ways in which Burge extended Putnam's argument. Then we will examine the possibility of reconciling semantic externalism with self-knowledge, and we will explore the anti-sceptical resources typically associated with semantic externalism. Finally we turn to a problem about how wide content mental states can be if not causally efficacious, then at least causally relevant.

**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.