

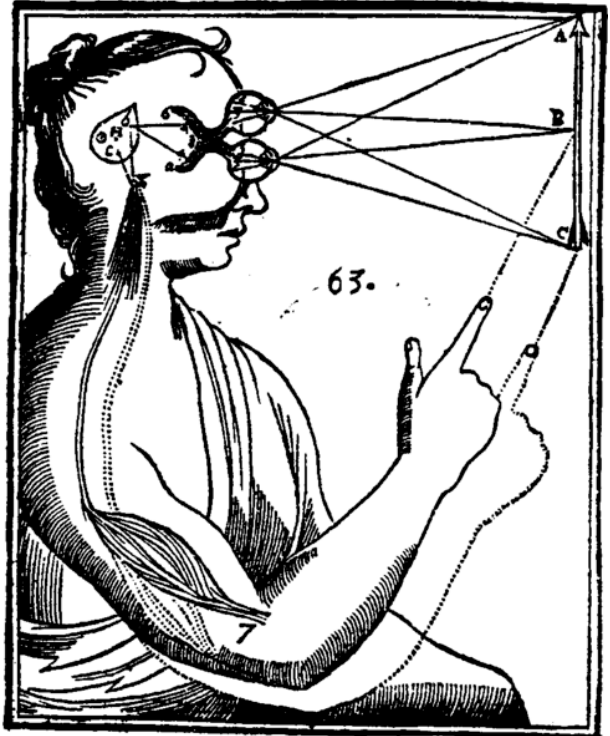
HONORS BASIC PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS

IHP 132-02 (9:25-10:40am)

Dr. Kelly Arenson

Fall 2018

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course we begin with the basic question, what is philosophy? In investigating this we look to Socrates, the quintessential philosopher of the ancient world and arguably of the entire Western philosophical tradition. Accounts of Socrates' conversations and death will help familiarize us with the sorts of questions philosophers ask and how they ask them. Two of these questions are the focus of the remainder of the class. First, how do we know what we know? In answering, we will consider whether we can know anything about the external world, other people, and ourselves. Second, what is the nature of personal identity? Here we consider the role of psychology (e.g., your memories and thoughts) and biology (e.g., the functioning of your body) in determining what makes you who you are. The course draws on ancient and contemporary sources, as well as fiction and film.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation; three exams; one final paper, written in stages over the course of the semester; a presentation.

PREREQUISITES:

None, but you are more likely to succeed in this class if you are a careful reader and come to every class ready to discuss texts and ideas.

NOTE:

Since philosophy is an art practiced through dialogue, this class is highly discussion-based. Students are expected to come to class ready to talk about the readings.