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## Basic Philosophical Questions

UCOR 132 (05)

Spring 2020: MWF 11-12PM

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### Course Goals

In this course we shall explore the Western philosophical tradition. We will analyze four major question areas in philosophy:

- *philosophy of God* (the question of God's existence and action)
- *epistemology* (the problem of human knowledge)
- *the philosophy of the person* (the relation between the soul/mind and the body)
- *ethics* (what we ought to do in order to live well).

This course assumes, first, that philosophical thinking plays a valuable part in a full and reflective life. It also assumes that philosophical reasoning is a kind of skill that can be developed and improved through time and effort. It is challenging, important, and indeed fun. Philosophy brings enthusiasm and an openness to the joy – and challenges -- of living and, indeed as we shall see, to love, fidelity, and genuine kindness.

Our goals are to:

- learn and appreciate the essential role of *rationality, logic, and critical thinking* in all aspects of human life
- develop a respect for and willingness to analyze *beliefs and judgments*
- achieve a deeper understanding of the scope and *limits* of human knowledge
- understand the *meaning of human life* and of one's personal identity
- confront the difficulties associated with determining *what we ought to do*, given the myriad options we have for acting or not acting.