Course Description
The focus of this introductory course in philosophy is understanding the notion of the self and its experience in society. Specifically, we will examine the various ways in which we experience the world can be shaped by aspects of who we are, whether that be our class, sex, gender, race, or all of them collectively. Consequently, we will examine what it means for our experience and our understanding of ourselves to be molded by others, by society, and by history. Historically, these issues have been addressed philosophically by marginalized perspectives, whose experiences attest to being shaped through their difference to a dominant group. By working with diverse perspectives, we can learn not only how the experiences of others reveal certain aspects of the role of society in shaping experience, but also how these same elements affect our own experience in implicit ways. Thus, this course will show how who and what we are is often necessarily entwined with who and what others are.

Authors covered in this course include Plato, René Descartes, David Hume, G. W. F. Hegel, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Judith Butler, Charles Mills, Frantz Fanon, and more.

Required Texts
None (All readings will be provided electronically)

Course Requirements
Students’ grades will be composed of a combination of written reader responses, quizzes, exams, papers, in-class presentations, and participation.

This course satisfies the University Core Requirement for “Philosophy”