

GRADUATE SEMINARS 2020-21

FALL 2020

Philosophy 275A, Michael Nelson – Proseminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology: Action, Intention, Thought, and Perception

Philosophy 281, Sasha Newton – Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*

This course will be a study of one of the most important works in the history of philosophy, Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*. We will attempt to understand its lasting significance by considering Kant’s own remarks about how his ‘Copernican revolution’ changed philosophy. We will pay close attention to Kant’s use of the traditional vocabulary of Aristotelian hylomorphism within the modern context of his reflections on self-consciousness. Our focus will be on what logic, and transcendental logic in particular, can teach us about the mind, the sort of capacity it is, and the way it relates to objects.

Philosophy 282, Adam Harmer

There is a great deal of recent interest in collective action, intention, and responsibility. However, much less attention has been paid to certain preliminary questions about the nature of collectives themselves. For example: In what sense do collectives exist? Are there different types of collectives/collective existence? What does the nature of collectives/collective existence suggest about the properties and capacities of collectives? This seminar will focus on the metaphysics and ontology of collectives, engaging both historical and contemporary discussions. We will start with an investigation of Leibniz’s distinction between *aggregates* and *individuals* before turning to some contemporary literature. Time permitting, we will then consider ways to move from these preliminary metaphysical questions to ethical questions about collective agency and, ultimately, issues of social justice.

Philosophy 283, Myisha Cherry - Forgiveness and its Limits

Philosophy 283, Howard Wettstein – Wittgenstein’s *On Certainty*