

• Fall 2014 Programs •

Four Ways to Believe in God

Religion and Rationality Workshop

Facilitator: Professor Lara Buchak

What is the role of reason and emotion in forming religious beliefs? Does belief require an emotional response or is it more appropriate to rely on a purely rational approach? We will examine four different views that engage these and other questions about belief by reading short passages from a representative thinker. We will discuss the merit of each view as an account of why people actually believe, and we will discuss what each view implies about whether and when religious beliefs are justified.

How to Be Happy

Philosophy Reading Group

Facilitator: Matthew Rose

This seminar offers a brief introduction to one of the most important works in the history of western thought. Aristotle's *Ethics* teaches readers about the nature of true and false happiness. Its argument is that to be happy one must be good, and that to be good one must know what human life is for. But what is a human being? And what is the difference between a good and bad human life? Answers to these questions, Aristotle argues, are not matters of personal preference or mere opinion, but can be found through rational reflection. This short seminar will provide an introduction to the *Ethics* and should be of special interest to students who are interested in the rational foundations of morality. No prior knowledge of philosophy is required.

On Being a Scientist

Science Ethics Reading Group

Facilitators: Professor Karl van Bibber & Nuri Kim

The fall science seminar will focus on the ethical code embedded in the culture and conventions of science research. The group will read "On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research," and meet weekly for conversations on mentoring, sharing results, human or animal testing, conflict of interest, and responding to violations of professional standards. Designed for students with experience in science research, this seminar presumes no prior study of ethics. Students from all disciplines welcome.

The Undergraduate Colloquium

Facilitator: Professor Steven Justice

The Undergraduate Colloquium is an intensive monthly discussion of intellectual principles and the intellectual life. These discussions will help students develop a kit of tools to use in approaching their courses, their reading and interests, the ideas they like

and the ideas they don't. Discussion topics will build on the interests and questions that students bring to the Colloquium: questions about the use of intellectual inquiry, about the coherence and purpose of their education--nearly anything related to the life of the mind. Newcomers welcome.

Social & Political Justice in Early Antiquity

History Reading Group

Facilitators: Monica Mikhail & Connor Grubaugh

This course offers a survey of social and political justice in early Christian history. It will consider the significance of social justice to the early church as expressed by St. Basil the Great and St. John Chrysostom. It will conclude by exploring Christians understandings of justice in the writings of Eusebius of Caesarea, St. Ambrose of Milan and St. Augustine.