Description
This course provides an overview of philosophy and its relation to other fields of study with an emphasis on the fundamental tensions between mind and body. Readings will be drawn from several historical periods, aiding our understanding of major themes in epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, and cognitive science.

Texts


Other readings as assigned. Available on Bb.

Assessment
Assessment will be based on three short exams, philosophical initiative, attendance, and a final exam. Your grade will be composed according to the following scheme:

- Three exams: 30%
- Three quizzes: 30%
- Attendance: 10%
- Final Exam: 30%

Schedule
(8/31 – 9/11) The rudiments of philosophy

(9/14) First exam

(9/16 – 9/23) Some ancient ideas

(9/25 – 10/16) Plato, Phaedo

(10/19) Second Exam

(10/21 – 11/16) René Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy

(11/18) Third exam
Thomas Nagel, *What is it like to be a Bat?*

**Review**

**Final exam 8 – 10:30AM**

**Exams, Quizzes, and Attendance** The exams are short – 10 to 20 questions in a T/F, multiple choice, fill in the blank format. While the format will be familiar to you, expect a challenge in terms of content. Quizzes are unannounced and will take the form of a short answer question. The final exam is cumulative and will be a combination of the exam/quiz format.

**Preparedness** I assume that you have an interest in philosophy if you are taking my course. There is a reading assignment for most class meetings. Reading and understanding philosophy demands close study, which is commonly achieved by re-reading. I encourage you to mind the readings before and after we discuss them. If you are unable to commit to this level of preparedness, then you should not take the course.

**Course Attributes** (AH2)(H3)(LA) This is a liberal arts course. You will develop an awareness of the conventions and methods associated with philosophy and its place alongside other courses that comprise the General Education requirements.

**Course policies** Students are advised that their work is subject to the Academic Integrity Policy, found at [http://policies.oneonta.edu](http://policies.oneonta.edu), and their attendance to each class meeting is expected; reasons for absences should be communicated directly with me.