

PHIL S-7. Introduction to Philosophy (CRN: 30198)

Andreas Teuber PhD, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Brandeis University

This course will cover a number of central topics in philosophy through the writings of major Western philosophers as well as through the close study of several fundamental issues that have arisen in the development of the Western philosophical tradition. Readings will be drawn from the writings of Plato, Aristotle, Anselm, Aquinas, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, Mill, and Nietzsche. Fundamental topics will include arguments for the existence of God; the value of religious belief; faith and subjectivity; the problem of evil; the nature of human knowledge; causation and scientific explanation; perception and illusion; the nature of consciousness; minds, brains, and machines; personal identity and survival after death; freedom and determinism; proposed standards of right conduct; moral relativism; morality and self-interest; and the meaning of life.