

**Philosophy 290**  
**Philosophy and Science Fiction**  
**Sept. 2021**

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Office: CLE B313

## **Inappropriate behaviour and contraventions of academic integrity**

Inappropriate behaviour and violations of standards of academic integrity as defined from the University Calendar will be dealt with from accordance with University Regulations.

### TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS (Unless otherwise indicated, the readings are in the Coursepack)

#### **I. Persons**

##### *Science Fiction*

- I. Asimov, "Evidence" from I. Asimov, *I, Robot* (1950) 147-169
- J. Blish, "Watershed," from R. Silverberg, ed. *Mutants* (NY: Thomas Nelson, 1974) pp. 173-182.
- Cordwainer Smith, "The Ballad of Lost C'Mell" from Ben Bova, ed. *Science Fiction Hall of Fame* vol. II (NY: Doubleday, 1973) pp. 342-361

##### *Philosophy*

- R. Descartes, *Meditations* Chap. 1-2, available at <https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/descartes/1639/meditations.htm>
- I. Kant, "Transition from the Common Rational Knowledge of Morality to the Philosophical" from I. Kant, *The Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals* transl. LW Beck (NY: Bobbs-Merrill, 1959) pp. 9-22.
- P.F. Strawson, "Persons" from P.F. Strawson, *I-inedus*

[https://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci\\_arttext&%20pid=S0102-311X1999000500011&lng=pt&nrm=iso&tl...](https://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&%20pid=S0102-311X1999000500011&lng=pt&nrm=iso&tl...)

### III. Reality and Perception

#### *Science Fiction*

- JL Borges, "The Circular Ruins," from *Jorge Luis Borges: Collected Fiction* transl.. A. Hurley (NY: Penguin, 1998) pp. 96-100.
- IB Singer, "Yachid and Yechida" from J Merrill, ed. *The Year's Best S-F: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Edition* (NY: Dell, 1965) pp. 368-373.
- CL Harness, "The New Reality," from D. Knight, ed. *The Shape of Things*, (Toronto: Popular Library, 1965) pp. 42-80
- H: Gold, "The Man with English," from R. Silverberg, ed. *Strange Gifts* (NY: Thomas Nelson, 1975) pp. 96-105 (reversal of sensations)

#### *Philosophy*

- G. Berkeley, *On the Principles of Human Knowledge*
- J. Pollock, "A Brain in a Vat", available at <http://www.uky.edu/~mwa229/Pollock.pdf>
- I. Kant: "Introduction" from *The Critique of Pure Reason* transl. NK Smith (Toronto: Macmillan, 1929) pp. 41-62.

#### *Optional Reading*

- David Chalmers, "The Matrix as Metaphysics" available at David Chalmers: <http://consc.net/papers/matrix.pdf>
- L. Niven, "The Theory and Practice of Time Travel", from L. Niven, *All the Myriad Ways* from *Galaxy*, Oct. 1968.

**Mid-term Examination: Oct. 25**

### IV. Language

#### *Science Fiction*

- JL Borges, "Funes the Memorios"
- R. Bradbury, "Referent" from Bleiler and Dikty, eds., *Imagination Unlimited* (NY: Berkley, 1952) pp. 5-13.

#### *Philosophy*

- Locke, "Of General Terms" and "Of Particles" from J. Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Bk. III. chaps. 3 & 7
- L. Wittgenstein, Paragraphs 1-47 from L. Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1958) pp. 2-21.
- Zlatev J, Blomberg J. "Language may indeed influence thought." *Front Psychol.* 2015;6:1631. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4511111/>

*Science Fiction*

- L. del Rey, "For I am a Jealous People," from F. Pohl, ed. *Star, Short Novels* (NY: Ballantine, 1954) pp. 65-109.(to be announced)
- Henry Kuttner, "By These Presents" from H. Kuttner, *Ahead of Time*, New York: Ballantine, 1953; pp. 24-38
- R. Sheckley, "Forever" from R. Sheckley, *Shards of Space* (Montreal: Bantam Books, 1962), pp. 126-135
- R. S. Payes, "In His Image," (shared uploaded file)

*Philosophy*

- St. Anselm, *Proslogion*, ontological argument, available at <https://www.webcitation.org/6Bp6qjJxw?url=http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/anselm.htm>
- St. Thomas Aquinas, arguments for the existence of God, available at <http://web.mnstate.edu/gracyk/courses/web%20publishing/aquinasFiveWays.htm>
- I. Kant, "Paralogism of Pure Reason" from I. Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* transl. NK Smith (NY: Macmillan, 1965) pp. 368-380.

**VI. Ethics****a. Responsibility and related issues***Science Fiction*

- H. Franke, "The Orchid Cage" from H. Franke, *The Orchid Cage* transl. by C. Priest; (New York: Daw, 1973) pp. 139-174.
- Cordwainer Smith, "A Planet Named Shaol," from *Galaxy Science Fiction*, Oct. 1961
- R. Sheckley, "The Girls and Nugent Miller," from *Shards of Space* (Bantam, 1962), (shared online in Brightspace)

*Philosophy*

- Immanuel Kant, "Transition from the Common Rational Knowledge of Morality to the Philosophical" from I. Kant, *The Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals* transl. LW Beck (NY: Bobbs-

Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5245170/>  
- J. Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia" *New England Journal of Medicine* 292  
(1975), pp. 78-80, available at [https://sites.ualberta.ca/~bleier/Rachels\\_Euthanasia.pdf](https://sites.ualberta.ca/~bleier/Rachels_Euthanasia.pdf)