

Philosophy 291

Seminar in Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Mind

Instructor: Anand Vaidya

Location / Day / Time: SH 238 / T / 4:30 – 6:45

Office / Hours: FOB 205 / R 3:00 – 4:30 and by
Appointment

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Course Description: This course will cover topics in metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of mind. The orientation of this course will be comparative across both methodology and traditions. We will be reading experimental and non-experimental philosophy, as well as eastern and western philosophers. Attention will be given to the classical debate between Hindu and Buddhist philosophers on topics in metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of mind as well as comparative philosophers of the mid-20th century that re-debated the classical dialogue.

Possible topics in metaphysics: time, causation, self, universals, and ontological categories.

Possible topics in epistemology: knowledge, understanding, explanation, attention, consciousness, perception, virtue epistemology, and the theory of valid cognition.

Class Structure: The first hour of the class will consist of a presentation by either the instructor a student or a group of students. After a short break, the second hour will consist of a discussion of the topic.

Grading: 1 presentation 30%, contributions to class discussion 20%, and 1 research paper (4500 words) 50%.