COURSE DETAIL

PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS
Country Australia
Host Institution University of Melbourne
Program(s) University of Melbourne
UCEAP Course Level Lower Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Philosophy
UCEAP Course Number 53
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS
UCEAP Transcript Title PHIL: BIG QUESTIONS
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description
This course introduces philosophy through an examination of big questions in three areas of philosophy: (1) Ethics. Does the moral rightness of an action depend solely on its consequences? Or are there some actions, like torture, which are morally wrong no matter how desirable the consequences? What is the moral status of animals? What is the responsibility of members of developed countries for global poverty? Is it morally permissible to spend money on non-essentials while children die of preventable poverty-related causes? (2) Knowledge and skepticism. What is knowledge and do we actually know what we take ourselves to know? Do we know that there is an external world or might we be subject to a massive illusion created by an evil demon? How is it possible for scientific knowledge of laws of nature to be based on limited observation of empirical facts? (3) Personal identity. What makes you the same person as you were ten years ago? Can you survive the loss of parts of your body? Can you survive with half of your brain? Is it important that I empathize with my past and future selves? What is death? Is death bad? How do Buddhist philosophers argue for the claim that there is no self?

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
PHIL10002

Host Institution Course Title
PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS

Host Institution Course Details
https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2016/PHIL10002

Host Institution Campus
Melbourne

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Philosophy

Course Last Reviewed
2023-2024

Print