

COURSE DETAIL

FIRST CONTACT

Country

United Kingdom - Scotland

Host Institution

University of St Andrews

Program(s)

University of St Andrews

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Philosophy

UCEAP Course Number

142

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

FIRST CONTACT

UCEAP Transcript Title

FIRST CONTACT

UCEAP Quarter Units

12.00

UCEAP Semester Units

8.00

Course Description

This course is about the philosophy of first contact - that is, philosophical problems generated by first encounters with alien phenomena, agents, and experiences. The course addresses special problems of categorization (e.g., How can we identify phenomena and experiences that do not fit standard frameworks?), translation and communication (e.g., How can we decipher the meaning of radically unfamiliar languages?), philosophical psychology (How should we emotionally respond to radically unfamiliar phenomena?), as well as ethics and politics (What do we owe to foreign agents in the context of first contact, and what special dangers do such situations pose?) raised by such encounters. The course begins by considering general questions of philosophical psychology, and then moves on to consider specific instances of first contact, and their significance.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

PY4665

Host Institution Course Title

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Host Institution Course Details

https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/modules/catalogue/?meta_semester_sand=1&m...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Philosophy

Course Last Reviewed

2024-2025

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