

# 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...](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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