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
FIRST CONTACT

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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