COURSE DETAIL

TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY II
Country Ireland
Host Institution Trinity College Dublin
Program(s) Trinity College Dublin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Philosophy
UCEAP Course Number 113
UCEAP Course Suffix B
UCEAP Official Title TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY II
UCEAP Transcript Title TOPICS/PHIL II
UCEAP Quarter Units 10.00
UCEAP Semester Units

6.70

Course Description

This course has two components, each exploring a different topic in philosophy.

Component 1: Transformative Experience. This course explores several challenging philosophical questions regarding transformative experience. Considering becoming a parent, getting married, going to university, choosing a career, or emigrating to a new country involves major life decisions that are typically transformative choices. They concern transformative experiences that change who people are and what they care about, and it may not be possible to know what it would be like for at the time of choosing. But, if so, how can a rational decision be made to become a parent, for example, if doing so changes what is cared about, and it is only possible to know what it would will be like once it occurs? Would it be wrong for a friend, family member, or romantic partner to try to stop someone from making a transformative choice, such as getting married? What role do transformative choice and experience play in other dimensions of life, such as art, religious experience, and social identity, as well as in broader philosophical debates over skepticism, the possibility of moral knowledge, and medical ethics?

Component 2: Emotion and Rationality. This course examines a few philosophical theories of emotion, drawing where appropriate on work in cognitive science, to enrich the philosophical investigation. An ancient picture of our psychology contrasts rationality with emotion. Both are central to human life. To be rational involves, in part, being sensitive to reasons on which people reflect and deliberate. But what is it to have emotions like fear, anger, joy, guilt and so on? How do they relate to other states of mind like belief, pleasure, intention, or desire? What’s the point of having various emotions? Do emotions inform people in some way about the world? Are emotions themselves rational or justified, and can they contribute to making certain actions rational? Or are emotions a distorting form of interference in an otherwise orderly psychology? Confronting these questions about the nature of emotion sheds light on and forces people to

consider issues about the nature of rational agency.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
PIU11012

Host Institution Course Title
TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY II B

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.tcd.ie/media/tcd/philosophy/pdfs/PIU11012-Topics-in-Philosophy-II-B…

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Philosophy

Course Last Reviewed
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