This is a 1 semester-hour course in which students take part in a combination of movie screenings, 50-minute Philosophy Club discussions, and/or philosophy department talks. The course requirements are participation in any eight of these over the course of the semester, and also eight postings to the course ICON board. The course is for a letter grade, though of course students can petition to take it P/NP.

The movie screenings are Tuesday evenings 7:00-9:00 in AJB 105; the departmental talks are Fridays 3:30-5:30 (the rooms will vary); the Philosophy Club meetings will be in EPB 269 on Thursdays at 1:00-1:50 or 2:00-2:50 (unless otherwise indicated).

Topics will include the following:

- what we owe each other
- the individual vs. the state
- social justice and oppression
- relativism vs. objective morality
- free will vs. determinism
- science and religion
- humanity's place in nature
- personal identity
- and many others…

In total there will be nine movie screenings, seven Philosophy Club discussions, and five departmental talks. Students attend any combination of eight of the total twenty-two events.

Assignments & Evaluation

participation and eight 300-word ICON posts: 100%

Plusses and minuses will be used in grading.

Schedule of Film Screenings – all on Tuesday evenings in AJB 105, the Franklin Miller Screening Room

August 30 – Vera Drake
September 13 – Gattaca
September 27 – A Short Film about Killing
October 11 – Fast Food Nation
October 25 – Her

November 1 – Crimes and Misdemeanors
November 15 – A Serious Man
November 29 – Wit
December 6 – Andrei Rublev

Schedule of Philosophy Club meetings – in EPB 269 unless otherwise indicated

Thursday September 1, 2:00-2:50 – altruism and self-interest [Cunning]
Thursday September 15, 1:00-1:50 – morality and God [Cunning, at the Senior Center downtown]
Thursday September 22, 1:00-1:50 – pluralism about value [Cunning, at the Senior Center]
Thursday September 29, 1:00-1:50 – technology, efficiency, and time [Cunning, at the Senior Center]
Thursday October 6, 1:00-1:50 – having goals while going with the grain [Cunning, at the Senior Center]
Thursday November 3, 2:00-2:50 – democracy and tyranny [Swanson]
TBA – police ethics [Davidovic]
Thursday December 1, 2:00-2:50 – TBA
Schedule of Departmental talks

Elizabeth Anderson, University of Michigan – "Changing Visions of Egalitarian Society"
5:00 pm, Thursday, September 22, 2016

Elizabeth Anderson, University of Michigan – "How to Be a Pragmatist"
3:30 pm, Friday, September 23, 2016

Laurie Paul, UNC Chapel Hill – “Who will I become?”
3:30 pm, Friday, October 14, 2016

Justin Sytsma, University of Wellington – "Conceptions of Pain"
3:30 pm, Friday, October 28, 2016

David Cunning, University of Iowa – "Cavendish on liberty"
3:30 pm, Friday, December 2, 2016

CLA Policies

Administrative Home
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook.

Electronic Communication
University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences (Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11).

Accommodations for Disabilities
The University of Iowa is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (which includes but is not limited to mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related conditions). A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor's office to make particular arrangements. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student, instructor, and SDS. See http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/ for information.

Academic Honesty
All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: “I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty.” Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

CLAS Final Examination Policies
The final examination schedule for each class is announced by the Registrar generally by the fifth week of classes. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the date, time, and location of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site and will be shared with instructors and students. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of a final exam.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint
Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook). The Philosophy DEO is David Cunning, in 257 EPB – office hours M and Th 11:30-1:00. His contact info is david-cunning@uiowa.edu and 335-0027.

Understanding Sexual Harassment
Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Office of the Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinator for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather
In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Department of Public Safety website.