

Phil 4105 Seminar in the Problems of Philosophy

Class Number 54107 Section TR2 Tues, Thurs 2:15 – 3:30pm

Instructor: Anna Gotlib

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Hey everyone! Interested in questions about who you are, how you make decisions, whether there is free will, and what the latest findings in neuroscience tell us about these questions? Curious about the moral and legal implications of cognitive enhancement or memory manipulation? Worried about the laws and policies that might regulate these new technologies? Then register for my course for the Fall 2014 semester -- and let others know!

Neuroethics is an area of inquiry, located broadly within medical ethics, that addresses ethical dilemmas at the intersection of personal identity, free will and moral responsibility, public policy and law, and the rapidly developing field of neuroscience. Over the last few decades, neuroscientific research into the nature and functions of the brain and the nervous system has resulted in revolutionary, and sometimes troubling, challenges to some traditional conceptions of who we are, how we reason, how we make decisions and value judgments, how and why we remember (and forget), and so on. This seminar provides an opportunity for students to both become acquainted with neuroethics as an emerging interdisciplinary field, as well as to explore in detail some of the most serious and consequential questions raised within neuroethics, such as the nature of personal identity, the implications of cognitive enhancement strategies (e.g., improving or altering memory and personality), the moral status of "brain reading" (to detect lying or to identify individual "deviant" or "bad" personalities), and the impact of neuroscience on questions of social justice. The class is conducted as a seminar-style discussion with a strong emphasis on student participation. Assignments will consist of presentations, short argumentative papers, and a longer seminar paper. If you have any questions or concerns about this course, please email me at: agotlib@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you want to graduate with HONORS in Philosophy, Phil 4105 Seminar Problems of Philosophy: Tomorrow's Self: Personal Identity, Agency, and Neuroethics will satisfy your SEMINAR requirement!