

## Phil 1: The Nature of Philosophy

Topic: Skepticism

Prof. Gila Sher

TA: Titus Jewell

Winter 2011

### Required Reading:

1. Plato: "Parable of the Cave". <http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/GREECE/ALLEGORY.HTM>
2. Descartes: *Discourse on Method & Meditations on First Philosophy* (UCSD Bookstore).
3. Hume: *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (UCSD Bookstore).
4. Putnam: "Brains in a Vat" (Internet Reserves).

**Grades:** Midterm (1/3), Final (2/3).

**Extra-Credit:** Class Presentations.

**Office Hours:** M 3:30-4:30, HS&S 8042.

### Schedule of Classes:

M 1/3	Introduction to Class
W 1/5	Plato: "Allegory of the Cave"
M 1/10	<b>Descartes:</b> Introduction
W 1/12	<i>Discourse on Method:</i> Parts 1-2
M 1/17	UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY
W 1/19	Parts 3-4
M 1/24	Parts 5-6
W 1/26	<i>Meditations on First Philosophy:</i> Meditations 1-2
M 1/31	Meditations 3-4
W 2/2	Meditations 5-6
M 2/7	<u>Midterm</u>
W 2/9	<b>Hume:</b> Introduction
M 2/14	An Abstract of <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i>
W 2/16	<i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding:</i> Sections 1-3
M 2/21	UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY
W 2/23	Sections 4-5
M 2/28	Sections 7 and 12. Appendix: "Why a Cause is Always Necessary"
W 3/2	Putnam: "Brains in a Vat"
M 3/7	Cont.
W 3/9	Conclusion