

# Invitation for Erasmus students: Pardubice Philosophy Department

Courses in philosophy planned to be given in 2017/18  
(Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, University of Pardubice, Czech Republic)

## Ondřej Sikora, Ph.D.



### **Plato: Becoming like God**

(ANFI1, 5 credits, winter semester)

The course deals with the theme of „becoming like god“ or „godlikeness“ in Plato’s dialogues. It examines the thesis that „becoming like god“ is not only one of the concepts of platonic ethics but, in the first place, the goal of human beings understood as embodied souls. In this context, it is necessary to ask two questions: what does exactly Plato mean by „becoming like“? What does Plato mean by god/gods? Lecture is combined with reading basic texts from Plato’s *Apology*, *Theaetetus*, *Phaedrus*, and *Timaeus*.

### **Autonomy: Kant and Others** (5 credits, summer semester)

The course investigates the topic of autonomy in modern European philosophy. It starts with the introduction of Kantian concept of autonomy, as it is elaborated in Kant’s critical philosophy. The attention is then turned to other thinkers and their further development or criticism of Kantian notion of autonomy, such as Nietzsche, Heidegger and Levinas. The course shows that it is possible to understand the philosophy of these thinkers as the result of the dialogue with Kant and his basic idea.

## Kamila Pacovská, Ph.D.



### **Contemporary philosophy**

(SOFIL, 5 credits, winter semester)

The course “Contemporary philosophy” aims at allowing the students deeply to investigate one of the important and topical problems in contemporary philosophy, mainly in contemporary Anglophone ethics. It has the form of a seminar in which the important papers in the discussion are read and discussed in English. For each year, a different topic is selected by the teacher. In winter semester 2017, the topic will be the nature of moral responsibility: Can we be blamed only for what was in our power, for things that we could prevent or affect? Bernard Williams claimed famously that contemporary moral philosophy was over-obsessed with blame and that it is our retrospective feelings such as regret, shame or remorse that should be analysed to explain personal responsibility. Moving from Williams, other important responses will be analysed, such as anger, indignation, punishment and love.

### **Ethics II.** (ETH2, 5 credits, summer semester)

The course “Ethics II” aims at allowing the students deeply to investigate a cluster of important problems in contemporary Anglophone ethics. It has the form of a seminar in which the important papers in the discussion are read and discussed

in English. For each year, a different topic is selected by the teacher. In summer semester 2017, the course will focus on the question whether it is possible and right to encourage loving responses to a wrongdoing of a beloved person. The course will be based on reading and interpreting texts of the so called Platonic tradition in ethics (authors such as S. Kierkegaard, S. Weil, R. Gaita) and it will examine ethical concepts connected with blame and love, in particular the concepts of forgiveness, reconciliation, humility and joy.

## Filip Grygar, Ph.D.



### **Hume’s A Treatise of Human Nature**

(NOET1, 5 credits, winter semester)

Course on David Hume’s *A Treatise of Human Nature* consists of two parts. A Lecture (45 min.) concentrates both on a short introduction to Hume’s philosophical work and on particular theory of perceptions and principles of our mind. The aim of seminar (45 min.) is reading and interpretation of *Treatise* (Book 1: Part 1.).

## Tomáš Hejduk, Ph.D.



### **Love and Friendship (not only)**

**in Ancient Greece I.** (EROS1, 5 credits, winter&summer semester)

The goal of the class is to investigate the most important concepts of love and friendship that we know from the history of European philosophical tradition. Since the contemporary debates of the problems of love and friendship (Frankfurt, Velleman, Kolodny, Rorty, ...) have been vastly inspired by ancient Greek thoughts on the subject (especially Plato and Aristotle), the class aims at integrating two different directions of research – the systematic and the historical.

## Centre for Ethics as Study in Human Value

At the end of 2016, a new international Centre for Ethics was created at the Department of Philosophy. This centre concentrates a number of excellent international researchers in (mostly Anglophone) ethics that will offer specialized courses according to their actual research interests. In addition to that, many research activities in ethics will run at the Centre, such as: regular research seminar, invited lectures, workshops and conferences. Visiting students as well as current students will be heartily welcome to participate in any of these. For more information, see <http://filosofie.upce.cz/en/224-centre-for-ethics/>.