

**HUMS 119**  
**Philosophy and Film**  
Spring 2013

**Instructor:** Dr. Dilek Hüseyinzadegan  
**Class Meeting Time and Place:** MW 12:30-13:45 CAS Z 26  
**Office:** CSSH Z- 12C (Ground Floor)  
**Office Hours:** MW 15:30-17:00 and by appointment  
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**Course Description and Objectives:**

This class aims to introduce you to philosophy and its issues through film. We will explore two sets of interrelated questions: First, how are philosophical problems depicted and dealt with in motion pictures? Are visual narratives effective ways of processing philosophical ideas? Second, how does philosophy help us understand and interpret visual narratives? Does a familiarity with philosophical problems allow us to see various conceptual layers of visual narratives? In addition to reading several texts concerning philosophical problems, we will discuss films under the sub-themes of Epistemology and Ontology (How do we know what we know?), and Ethics and Politics (How should we act? How to co-exist with Others?)

**READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

Our schedule, as anything else in the syllabus, is subject to change given circumstances that may arise in the course of the term. For the most up-to-date schedule, please check KUAIS and your email regularly.

Epistemology and Ontology: How do we know what we know?

Feb 4 Monday:	Introduction and Syllabus.
Feb 6 Wednesday:	General Introduction to the course. <i>The Matrix</i>
Feb 11 Monday:	<i>The Matrix</i>
Feb 13 Wednesday:	<i>The Matrix</i> , Discussion – Intro to Plato
Feb 18 Monday:	Plato's <i>Republic</i>
Feb 20 Wednesday:	Plato, cont'd. Descartes, <i>First Meditation</i>
Feb 25 Monday:	Descartes, <i>First and Second Meditation</i>
Feb 27 Wednesday:	Descartes and <i>the Matrix</i>

**Review Paper on *The Matrix* (Descartes or Plato) Due Online, February 29 Friday by 20:00**

Ethics and Morality: How should we act?

March 4 Monday:	Introduction to Kant
March 6 Wednesday:	Kant, cont'd.

March 11 Monday: *The Bicycle Thieves*  
March 13 Wednesday: *The Bicycle Thieves*, Discussion  
  
March 18 Monday: Kant and introduction to Nietzsche  
March 20 Wednesday: Nietzsche, selections from *the Gay Science*  
  
March 25 Monday: Nietzsche cont'd.  
March 27 Wednesday: Nietzsche cont'd.  
  
April 1 Monday: Midterm review  
April 3 Wednesday: **MIDTERM, in class.**

**April 8-10 Spring Break - no class**

Ethics and Society: The Question of the Other

April 15 Monday: Sartre, "Existentialism is a Humanism"  
April 17 Wednesday: Sartre, cont'd.  
  
April 22 Monday: *Crimes and Misdemeanors*  
April 24 Wednesday: *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, discussion.  
  
April 29 Monday: Beauvoir, "Introduction" to *The Second Sex*  
May 1 Wednesday: Beauvoir, cont'd.  
  
May 6 Monday: *The Stepford Wives*  
May 8 Wednesday: *The Stepford Wives* Discussion  
  
May 13 Monday: Catch-up day, Review  
May 15 Wednesday: Final Discussion and paper workshop

**Final Exam (Take Home - Due online): May 31, Friday by 20:00**