

## Topics in the Philosophy of Mind (G9658)

This course will cover some of the fundamental issues in the nature of practical reason and moral psychology, ranging from the nature of moral reasoning to weakness of will, from the relation between neuroscience and normative elements of mind and action to the relation between human deliberation and public life.

The semester will begin with two initial sessions in the first two weeks conducted by the instructors Jon Elster and Akeel Bilgrami, presenting some of their own interests in the subject and some of their own work, for discussion.

This will be followed by eleven weekly sessions, which will bring to the seminar each week distinguished philosophers in the broad area of practical reason and moral psychology. A paper by one of the visitors on some subject in this area will be the focus of discussion each week, with two brief presentations (fifteen minutes each, at most) by students on the paper, followed by discussion. Occasionally, one or other instructor might also make a presentation on a paper of the visiting speaker.

Each paper to be discussed will be put up on Courseworks two weeks in advance of the author's visit.

The philosophers who will visit the seminar will be: John McDowell, Candace Vogler, Gilbert Harman, Tim Scanlon, Kent Berridge, Richard Holton, Bernard Manin, Drazen Prelec, Joshua Knobe, Niko Kolodny, and Sam Scheffler.

There will be no casual auditors allowed in the seminar. Any one who wishes to attend without enrolling for the course must get permission from the instructors first, and no permission will be given unless they plan to attend throughout the semester. This is to ensure both continuity and community of discussion and the

requirement of regular attendance will be strictly observed. No student will be permitted to take the seminar who does not attend all thirteen sessions. And all those who attend must make one presentation in the course of the semester.

Enrolled students will write one paper at the end of the semester. Students taking the course for R credit need not write a paper at the end of term, but must make a presentation in class.

Akeel Bilgrami  
Jon Elster