

## **Phil 1: The Nature of Philosophy**

**Topic: Skepticism**

**Prof. Gila Sher**

**TA: Haggeo Cadenas**

**Winter 2018**

### **Required Reading:**

1. Plato: "Parable of the Cave". <https://web.stanford.edu/class/ihum40/cave.pdf>
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 10/1	Introduction to Class
W 10/3	<b>Plato:</b> "Allegory of the Cave"
M 10/8	<b>Descartes:</b> Introduction
W 10/10	<i>Discourse on Method:</i> Parts 1-2
M 10/15	Parts 3-4
W 10/17	Parts 5-6
M 10/22	<i>Meditations on First Philosophy:</i> Meditations 1-2
W 10/24	Meditations 3-4
M 10/29	Meditations 5-6
W 10/31	Review
M 11/5	<u>Midterm</u>
W 11/7	<b>Hume:</b> Introduction
M 11/12	UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY
W 11/14	An Abstract of <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i>
M 11/19	<i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding:</i> Sections 1-3
W 11/21	Sections 4-5
M 11/26	Sections 7 and 12. Appendix: "Why a Cause is Always Necessary"
W 11/28	<b>Putnam:</b> "Brains in a Vat"
M 12/3	Cont.
W 12/5	Review