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| Code of course: **BA-ERA-IPH-S-13, MA-ERA-IPH-S-13** |
| Title of course: **Free Will, Determinism, and Moral Responsibility** |
| Lecturer: **Zhiwei Gu**synchronous online course (according to timetable, but online) |
| **General aim of the course:**By the end of the course, students who have completed the required work will achieve a better understanding of the problem of free will, the main positions in the contemporary debate, and the importance of free will.**Content of the course:**We conceive our ourselves as free agents: we think freely and act freely. But we also believe that we are part of the physical world which governed by laws of nature. Are these two conceptions compatible? If it is not compatible, can we still be free agents and have moral responsibility? This course will study a number of proposed answers to these questions drawn from historical and contemporary sources.**Required reading:**(P)= Derk Pereboom (edi), Free Will, Hackett Readings in Philosophy.(K)= Robert Kane, A Contemporary Introduction to Free WillWeek 1, (P) Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, selections; The Stoics, selectionsWeek 2, (P) Thomas Reid, from Essays on the Active Powers of ManWeek 3, A.J.Ayer, Freedom and Necessity; Roderick Chisholm, Human Freedom and the Self;in Gary Watson (ed), Free Will. OUP 2003Week 4, Van Inwagen, “An Argument for Incompatibilism”, in Gary Watson (ed), Free Will. OUP 2003. Week 5, Lewis, “Are we Free to Break the Laws?”, in Gary Watson (ed), Free Will. OUP 2003.Week 6, (K) Chapter 4, “Libertarianism, Indeterminism and Chance”Week 7, (K) Chapter 7, “ Is Free Will Possible? Hard Determinists and Other SkepticsWeek 8, (P) Frankfurt, “Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility” Week 9, Michael Slote, “Selective Necessity and the Free Will ProblemWeek 10, Martin Fischer& Mark Ravizza, “Responsibility and Control: A Theory of Moral Responsibility”, Chapter 3.Week 11, P. Strawson, “Freedom and Resentment”Week 12, Wallace, “Responsibility and the Moral Sentiments”Week 13, (P) Galen Strawson, “The Impossibility of Ultimate Moral Responsibility”Week 14, Barry Loewer, “Freedom From Physics: Quantum mechanics and Free Will”**Grading criteria, specific requirements:**All students must attend the classes and are required to produce regular brief reflections on their reading. All students taking the class for credit must submit a 500 word short paper on a topic discussed before Week 7 and a 2000 word final paper on a topic agreed in advance with the instructor. The grade for the class will be the grade earned for the short paper and the final paper (25% and 60%, respectively). Regular brief reflections on readings count 15%, though in exceptional cases extra credit may be awarded for participation throughout the term. **Suggested further reading:**Gary Watson (ed., Free Will, Oxford Readings in Philosophy, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2003. |