

Tuesday and Thursday: 11:32:55
Leacock Building 927
Instructor: Maiya Jordan
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Office:
Office hours:

Course Description

Most of us can recall having self-deceived at some point or at least we can think of instances when we have observed others doing so. In fact, it seems that self-deception is widespread. People deceive themselves about why they failed exams, they skipped going to the gym, and about how many glasses of wine they will have later. They lie to themselves about how smart their children are, how prejudiced their judgement of others is, and about when they will sit down and start that paper. But how can someone pull off a lie to herself? WK \ G R H V Q ¶ Wñ íëT

This course explores a range of attempts to address these puzzles and to better understand self-deception. We will ask: What is self-deception and how is it possible? Can self-deception make us happy? Am I doing something morally wrong when I self-deceive and if so, why is it wrong?

Texts: There is no required textbook or coursepack for this course. All required readings will be made available through myCourses, either as PDFs or links to library and internet resources.

Pre-requisites: There are no formal pre-requisites for this course but many readings are challenging. Expect to spend some time on readings and to read things more than once. If you would like to discuss the requirements of the course in more detail, please come to speak to me in office hours.

Assignments and Grades: One short paper (15%), one term paper (30%), one short

3. Paper 2 (30%) A term paper (6 pages) on an assigned topic due **March 21st**.

4. Short presentation (10%) A short presentation (6 minutes) on your chosen topic with two discussion questions for the group.

Schedule of readings



Week 7 14th Guest speaker: Jason D'Cruz, University at Albany, SUNY (TBA)

- 6th The Ethics of Self-Deception
- Baron, "What Is Wrong with Self-Deception?"
 - Optional: Kirsch, "What's So Great about Reality?"

Week 14 11th Review for final exam ~~exam~~ released in class

Exam due date TBA