This class will provide an introduction to the central and novel ideas in philosophical theories of the self. Who are we? What is our place in the cosmos? Can we act freely? Can we define ourselves? Students should be prepared to think for themselves and to question their assumptions. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated, as true philosophical inquiry requires open and supportive discussion.

- Plagiarism: Work that is not properly cited will receive a zero. If you have any questions about plagiarism, ask! [http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html](http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html)
- I will do my best to accommodate all students. If you have a particular concern, first contact the Disability Resource Center, if applicable, then contact me by email or visit during office hours. [https://www.ou.edu/content/drc/home/students/accommodations.html](https://www.ou.edu/content/drc/home/students/accommodations.html)
- No late work will be accepted.

**Required Materials:**
- John Perry: *Personal Identity*
- Hilde Lindemann Nelson: *Damaged Identities and Narrative Repair*
- iclicker

**Grading**
- Daily Quizzes 30%
- Six Papers 60%
- Class Participation 10%

The daily quizzes will test reading comprehension, as well as the material covered in class. The five lowest quiz scores will be dropped. You are encouraged to use these "freebies" for days when you are sick or otherwise unable to make it to class on time. If you have to miss more than five days due to an extended illness (or other excused reason), contact me as soon as possible so that we can discuss a plan for making up the missed work.

If you would like feedback on your papers, you must submit a draft (via D2L) no later than one week *prior* to the due date. All papers must be submitted via D2L. You will be provided with paper prompts and instructions.

Class participation includes asking questions, answering questions, and actively participating in group discussions.
Tentative Schedule

Week 1: The Problem of Identity Over Time (1/12 – 1/16)
- M: Intro
- W: The Problem
  - Ted Sider: “The Concept of Personal Identity”
  - Rachels & Rachels: “The Problem”
- F: The Soul [No Class]
  - Watch *The Thirteenth Floor*

Week 2: The Soul (1/19 – 1/23)
- M: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day [No Class]
  - Think about what Martin Luther King, Jr. did for his beliefs.
- TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: *Thirteenth Floor*
- W: The Soul
  - Rachels & Rachels: “The Idea of an Immortal Soul”
  - Ted Sider: “The Soul”
- F: Body Swaps
  - Carolyn Niethammer: “The Buffalo Woman”

Week 3: Dualism (1/26 – 1/30)
- M: Dualism
  - Rachels and Rachels: “Descartes and Elizabeth” 6.1
- TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*
- W: Dualism [Other Instructor]
  - Richard Swinburne: “Dualism”
- F: Dualism [No Class]
  - Watch *Freaky Friday*

**PAPER #1 DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd BY MIDNIGHT**

Week 4: Personal Identity: Memory Theory (2/2 – 2/6)
- M: Psychological Continuity
  - Rachels & Rachels: “The Prince and the Cobbler”
  - John Locke: “Of Identity and Diversity” (Pl: 33-52)
- TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: *The Prestige*
- W: Psychological Continuity
  - Rachels & Rachels: “Memory”
  - Thomas Reid: “Of Mr. Locke’s Account” (Pl: 113-118)
- F: Duplication [No Class]
  - Watch *The Prestige*
Week 5: Duplication (2/9 – 2/13)
  • M: Duplication [Other Instructor]
    o Ted Sider: “Psychological Continuity and the Problem of Duplication”
  • TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: It’s a Boy Girl Thing
  • W: Brain Bisection:
    o Thomas Nagel: “Brain Bisection and the Unity of Consciousness”
  • F: Fission and Identity:
    o Derek Parfit: “Personal Identity” (PI: 199-223)

PAPER #2 DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16th BY MIDNIGHT

Week 6: Consciousness (2/16 – 2/20)
  • M: Living Forever
    o David Lewis: “Survival and Identity”
  • TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: I Robot (Also fun/relevant: Blade Runner, Battlestar Galactica, Caprica, and Waking Life)
  • W: Physicalism and Functionalism
    o Rachels & Rachels: “Materialist Theories of the Mind”
  • F: Consciousness and Computers
    o Rachels & Rachels: Chapter 7 “Could a Machine Think?”

Week 7: Free Will (2/23 – 2/27)
  • M: Physical Determinism
    o Rachels & Rachels: 9.1
  • TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: Minority Report (Also fun/relevant: 12 Monkeys and Groundhog Day)
  • W: Libertarian Free Will
    o Rachels & Rachels: 9.2
  • F: Compatibilism
    o Rachels & Rachels: 9.3
    o Harry Frankfurt: “Freedom of the Will and Concept of a Person”

PAPER #3 DUE MONDAY, MARCH 2nd BY MIDNIGHT

Week 8: Free Will (3/2 – 3/6)
  • M: Psychological Determinism
    o Rachels & Rachels: 8.1, 8.2
  • TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: Gattaca
  • W: Social Science Experiments
    o Rachels & Rachels: 8.3
  • F: Character and Genes
    o Rachels & Rachels: 8.4
Week 9: Narrative Identity (3/9 – 3/13)

- M: Problems with Re-identification
  - Marya Schechtman: “The Reidentification Question”
- W: Characterizing Identity
  - Marya Schechtman: “The Characterization Question”
- F: Internal vs. External Identity
  - Linda Martin Alcoff: “Social Identities”

SPRING BREAK!

Week 10: Gender and Race (3/23 – 3/27)

- M: Racial Identity
  - Anthony Appiah: “But Would That Still Be Me?”
- W: Gender Identity
  - Sally Haslanger: “Gender and Race”
- F: Stereotypes and Implicit Bias
  - Sendhil Mullainathan: Racial Bias

PAPER #4 DUE MONDAY, MARCH 30th BY MIDNIGHT

Week 11: Narrative Repair: Reclaiming Moral Agency (3/30 – 4/3)

- M: Reclaiming Moral Agency
  - Hilde Lindemann Nelson: Damaged Identities pp. 1-11
- W: Stories
  - Hilde Lindemann Nelson: Damaged Identities pp. 11-21
- F: Identity and Agency
  - Hilde Lindemann Nelson: Damaged Identities pp. 22-35

Week 12: The Narrative Construction of Personal identities (4/6 – 4/10)

- M: We Are What We Care About
  - Hilde Lindemann Nelson: Damaged Identities pp. 69-80
- W: We Are What Others Care About
  - Hilde Lindemann Nelson: Damaged Identities pp. 81-88
- F: Who Gets to Say Who I Am?
  - Hilde Lindemann Nelson: Damaged Identities pp. 99-105

PAPER #5 DUE MONDAY, APRIL 13th BY MIDNIGHT

Week 13: Identities Damaged to Order (4/13 – 4/17)

- M: Oppression
  - Hilde Lindemann Nelson: Damaged Identities pp. 105-118
- W: Gypsies & Transsexuals
  - Hilde Lindemann Nelson: Damaged Identities pp. 118-135
- F: Mothers & A Picture
  - Hilde Lindemann Nelson: Damaged Identities pp. 135-149
Week 14: Counterstories (4/20 – 4/24)
  • Counterstories
    o Hilde Lindemann Nelson: *Damaged Identities* pp. 150-157
  • Master Narratives
    o Hilde Lindemann Nelson: *Damaged Identities* pp. 157-169
  • How Counterstories Resist
    o Hilde Lindemann Nelson: *Damaged Identities* pp. 169-188

PAPER #6 DUE MONDAY, APRIL 27th BY MIDNIGHT

Week 15: Meaning of Life and Conclusions (4/27 – 5/1)
  • M: Meaning
  • W: Changing Yourself
    o Ruth Chang: “Resolving to Create a New You”
  • F: Who am I and who am I going to be?
Writing an excellent philosophy paper requires

1. Thesis
   a. This is what you are arguing for.
   b. This is your main claim.

2. Argument
   a. This is the reason your thesis is true.
   b. This is the reason why you think your main claim is true.
   c. This is what justifies your thesis.
   d. This is why other people should believe your thesis.

3. Examples
   a. Are there any real examples that make your argument and thesis more compelling?
   b. Are there any thought experiments that you can think of that make your argument and thesis more compelling?

4. Potential Objections
   a. After hearing your argument, why would others nevertheless disbelieve your main claim?
   b. Could someone disagree with the logic of your reasoning?
   c. Could someone disagree with your assumptions?

5. Replies
   a. How would you answer/address those objections?

Paper Topics:

1. What is the best thing about a soul theory? What makes it good? What is the worst thing about a soul theory? What makes it bad? Which is stronger and why?
   a. Thesis: The best argument for (against) the soul theory is stronger than the best argument against (for) it.
   b. Argument: Why?
   c. Examples: What illustrates your arguments?
   d. Clarity / Grammar: Use the writing center, your roommate, etc.!
   e. Interesting: Do you choose an interesting/deep/important example?
   f. Compelling: Is your reasoning and argument persuasive?

2. Is the possibility of ‘duplication’ a problem for your preferred theory of personal identity over time? If so, explain why. If not, explain why not. Would you feel confident traveling by teleporter?
   a. Thesis: Duplication is (is not) a counterexample to ______ theory of personal identity.
   b. Argument: Why? (Why not?)
   c. Example: Describe the example of the teleporter.
   d. Clarity / Grammar: Use the writing center, your roommate, etc.!
   e. Accuracy: Do you correctly describe the theory and duplication?
   f. Compelling: Is your reasoning and argument persuasive?