Philosophy 150: Self-Knowledge
Instructor: Berislav Marušić
Office: Mandel Center for the Humanities, 109
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2-4pm.
Contact: marusic@brandeis.edu

Course Description
How do we know ourselves? It must be different from how we know others: After all, we don’t need to ask ourselves to find out how things are with us, and we don’t need to observe ourselves either. Yet how, then, could we know ourselves at all? How could we deceive ourselves? And how substantive is our self-knowledge really?

Readings
  All other readings will be made available on LATTE.

Requirements
- Short paper (4-5 pages) 20%
- Long paper (8-10 pages) 30%
- Take Home Final exam 20%
- Participation 30%

Requirements for graduate students are the same as for undergraduate students.

Laptop Policy: Please do not use laptops in class.
Learning Goals
General goals are to learn how to carefully read important philosophical texts, to extract and evaluate philosophical arguments from them, and to critically engage with, and build upon these arguments. The particular goals are to get an understanding for the philosophical questions that arise about self-knowledge and to understand the ways in which self-knowledge is possible and the ways it is limited. For more information, see the Philosophy Department’s learning goals at:
http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/philosophy/undergrad/learninggoals.html

Academic Dishonesty
Academic Dishonesty will be reported to the Department of Student Development and Conduct. Students are responsible to inform themselves about what constitutes dishonesty. If in doubt, please ask me! Here are some basic principles:

- Representing others’ words as one’s own constitutes academic dishonesty. One represents others’ words as one’s own if one uses a formulation that someone else came up with without putting it in quotation marks and attributing it to the author.
- Copying and pasting formulations found on the internet, without attributing them and citing the relevant webpage, is a particularly egregious form of academic dishonesty.
- Communicating with others during an exam about anything that pertains to the subject matter of the course also constitutes academic dishonesty.

Note, however, that it is not dishonest to have others read your papers and give you feedback on them. The writing and formulations, however, must be your own.

More information about what constitutes academic dishonesty can be found here:
http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/srcs/index.html

Disability
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis and need to have special accommodations for this class, please see me immediately. I am very happy to make the relevant arrangements.

Four-Credit Course (with three hours of class-time per week)
Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).
Schedule of Readings and Assignments

1. Self-Knowledge and ‘Inner Sense’
8/29-9/20
Descartes, Meditations I & II
Shoemaker, “Self-Knowledge and ‘Inner Sense’.” Lectures I-III.

2. Self-Knowledge as Self-Constitution
9/25-11/1
Moran, Authority and Estrangement
Boyle, “Two Kinds of Self-Knowledge”
McGeer, “The Moral Development of First-Person Authority”

Short paper due 10/30

3. The Unconscious
11/5-11/19
Freud, “Remembering, Repeating and Working Through”
Freud, The Unconscious (selections)
Wollheim, “On the Freudian Unconscious”

4. Self-Deception
11/26-12/10
Sartre, “Bad Faith” in Being and Nothingness
Fingarette, “Self-Deception Needs No Explaining.”
Gendler, “Self-Deception as Pretense”

Long paper due 12/12
Take home final exam 12/17-12/21