Instructor: Prof. Jens Timmermann
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Office Location and Office Hours: TBD

**Course Description**
This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to philosophical debates around the notions of truthfulness, lying and deception. Individual topics include the definition of lying, the possibility of self-deception, the value of truthfulness, lying and deception as ethical problems and the problem of lying in major figures in the history of philosophy, such as Augustine, Grotius and Kant.

**Prerequisites**
While there are no official prerequisites for this course, students should be familiar (or be prepared to familiarize themselves) with the fundamentals of ethical theory – including the major ethical theories and the terminology used in discussions of ethics.

**Assignments and Evaluation**
- Weekly reading responses: students will respond online to one or two questions about the week’s readings (counting for 30% of the final grade)
- One ten-page paper, due mid-term (counting for 30% of the final grade)
- One three-hour exam at the end of the term (counting for 40% of the final grade)

**Course materials** will be made available via the course LATTE page.

**Teaching units (of roughly two weeks each)**

1. What is lying? Is a lie a lie if it fails to deceive? (three weeks)
   (Fallis 2009, Stokke 2013, Sorensen 2007, Lackey 2013)

2. What, if anything, is wrong with lying? What is good about truthfulness? (two weeks)
   (chapter 4 in Saul 2012, Martin 2009, Stokke 2013b, 2014)

3. Can we lie to ourselves? If so, how? (one week)
   (Baron 1988)

4. History I: Plato (one week)
   (selections 8, 9 in DeLapp/Henkel 2016)

5. History II: Aristotle and Aquinas (one week)
   (selections 3 and 11 in DeLapp/Henkel 2016)
6. History III: Augustine (one week) (selection 1 in DeLapp/Henkel 2016)

7. History IV: Grotius (one week) (selection 2 in DeLapp/Henkel 2016)

8. History V: Nietzsche (one week) (selection 19 in DeLapp/Henkel 2016)


Reading List


4. ——, 2010. Lying and Deception, Philosophers’ Imprint, 10: 1–22


**Learning Goals**
Students will become familiar with philosophical debates surrounding truthfulness, lying, and deception. Students can expect to practice their skills in critical reading; interpretation of texts; and philosophical discussion and writing.

**Work Load**
Success in this four-credit 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.).

**Academic Integrity**
You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work (*a fortiori* in a class on lying). Please consult the university webpage for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university.

**Disabilities**
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.