Philosophy 780

Who’s Human Now? Historical and Philosophical Ideas About Personhood

When we call someone a person, what do we mean, and what are we trying to do? When did the status of personhood become socially, legally, and morally significant? How has the concept of personhood expanded or contracted to include more or fewer beings, and why? Are fetuses persons? Are corporations persons? Are chimps persons? Who counts as a person now, and who will count as a person in the future? How and why are human persons subject to dehumanization? Readings and texts will draw from historical sources and contemporary philosophy.

Philosophy 780 is a discussion-based seminar with weekly essays.
Monday & Wednesday 2:10-3:30, Nesmith 316
Fulfills the 3rd PHIL History Course Requirement