

**Title of the course:** *Paradoxes*

**General aim of the course:**

Immanuel Kant, in his *Critique of Pure Reason*, tried to prove that human reason is necessarily limited and it is incapable of attaining knowledge in some areas (like metaphysics). Kant tried to prove this by developing alleged paradoxes, for example, by 'proving' that the universe had a beginning and did not have a beginning in time. Although Kant's proofs are flawed, there are many seemingly sound paradoxes that test our conceptions of space, time, truth, reality, and rationality. The course provides an overview of such open problems, with an eye toward assessing their metaphysical and epistemological significance.

**Content of the course:**

1. What is a paradox?
2. Time travel
3. The Liar
4. The Sorites
5. The paradox of prediction
6. The paradoxes of omnipotence
7. Paradoxes of the infinite
8. Zeno's paradoxes
9. The Raven
10. The Lottery Paradox
11. Fitch's paradox of knowability
12. Infinite regresses
13. Is reality contradictory? (Dialetheism)

**Grading criteria, specific requirements for the course:**

Grading will be based on 3 short essays (500 words each), each of which solves a specific paradox. Deadline: 15 December.

**Recommended readings:**

Huemer, Michael (2018): *Paradox Lost*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Sainsbury, R.M. (2009): *Paradoxes*. Cambridge University Press.

Yanofsky, Noson S. (2013): *The Outer Limits of Reason*. The MIT Press.