

科目ナンバリング		U-LAS00 20019 LE34							
授業科目名 <英訳>		Epiphanies-E2 Epiphanies-E2 :The Role of Experience in Ethics and in Our Lives				担当者所属 職名・氏名		文学研究科 特別招へい教授 Chappell, Sophie-Grace	
群	人文・社会科学科目群		分野(分類)		哲学・思想(各論)		使用言語	英語	
旧群	A群	単位数	2単位	時間数	30時間	授業形態	講義（対面授業科目）		
開講年度・ 開講期	2026・ 後期集中		曜時限	集中 2027年3月8日（月） ～2027年3月25日（木） 5限 2027年3月26日 （金）3、4、5限		配当学年	全回生	対象学生	全学向
[授業の概要・目的]									
In this course we will conduct a philosophical exploration of epiphanies, peak experiences, 'wow moments', or ecstasies as they are sometimes called. What are epiphanies, and why do so many people so frequently experience them? Are they just transient phenomena in our brains, or are they the revelations of objective value that they very often seem to be? What do they tell us about the world, and about ourselves? How, if at all, do epiphanies fit in with our moral systems and our theories of how to live? And how do epiphanic experiences fit in with the rest of our lives? In this seminar we will investigate these questions. Through guided readings and discussion, students will learn how to ask and answer philosophical questions around ethics and value, and will gain an appreciation of the ubiquity and complexity of epiphanic experiences within human life. We will read Sophie-Grace Chappell ’ s Epiphanies: an Ethics of Experience (Oxford University Press, 2022), along with canonical supporting philosophical texts. Students will be encouraged to supplement these text with suggestions of their own, and to bring their own personal and cultural knowledge to bear on the topics under discussion.									
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Students will gain an understanding of central philosophical problems including the nature of value, the nature of our knowledge of other minds, and the relation between art, ethics, and experience. Students will become familiar with key concepts and thinkers in contemporary ethics, aesthetics and the philosophy of mind. Students will develop their ability to reason critically, to analyse philosophical ideas, and to express their own views clearly in English.									
[授業計画と内容]									
Classes 1-2: Epiphanies and the Ethics of Experience Introduction and definition of the phenomenon of an epiphany. Examination of epiphanic experiences drawn from history, biography, and fiction. An overview of the history of the concept of epiphany and its differentiated cultural uptakes. Reading: Chappell, S.G. (2022) Epiphanies: an Ethics of Experience. Oxford: Oxford University Press, ch.1 Taylor, C. (1989) Sources of the Self. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, ch.1 Classes 3-4: Moral Theory and its Alternatives Experience as a starting point for moral reflection, and its relation to theory building approaches to moral philosophy. Comparison with other anti-theoretical positions such as Bernard Williams ’ subjectivism. Discussion of the relation between morality and ethics.									
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Reading:

Epiphanies, ch.2

Williams, B. (1981) ' Internal and external reasons ' , in Moral Luck: Philosophical Papers 1973#82111980. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 101-113.

Classes 5-6: Encounters with Values

The relation between epiphanies and moral value is pursued, through the hypothesis that it is in epiphanic experience that we become immediately aware of a value (or values). This leads to the meta-ethical question: In what sense are values real properties, waiting to be encountered? We will approach this question through reference to the challenge(s) of relativism.

Reading:

Epiphanies, ch.3

Wiggins, D. (1989) ' Moral Cognitivism, Moral Relativism, and Motivating Moral Beliefs ' , Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society 91, 61-85.

Classes 7-8: The Phenomenology of Being Human

Value is pervasively presented to us in the whole continuum of our subjective experience, not only the peaks in that continuum that we call epiphanies. Through examination of the continuous and variegated character of our experience some of its important aspects and their connections to value are brought out. Specific attention is paid to Merleau-Ponty ' s phenomenology of the body.

Reading:

Epiphanies, ch.4

Merleau-Ponty, M. (1945/2012) The Phenomenology of Perception. Routledge, pp.69-100

Classes 9-10: Nourishment for the Psyche

In the classes up to now we have examined the connections between ethics, the appreciation of value, experience, and embodied subjectivity. Now we broaden out to include reference to values that are not obviously ethical, including the spiritual and artistic. Considering the relation between art, ethics, and religion will allow us to discern structures within our experience (including epiphanies). The notions of symbol, narrative, and icon will be crucial here.

Reading:

Epiphanies, ch.5

Gaita, R. ' Truth as a Need of the Soul ' in A Common Humanity: Thinking about Love and Truth and Justice. Routledge, pp. 237-259.

Classes 11-12: Knowing Other People

Sometimes we have epiphanies concerning other people. What is the ethical important of epiphanies of this kind? Investigation of this leads us into issues concerning the nature of our relations to others, and the grounds of our convictions and confidences concerning them.

Reading:

Epiphanies, ch.6

Cavell, S. (2002) ' Knowing and Acknowledging ' , in Must We Mean What We Say?: A Book of Essays.

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Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 238-266.

Classes 13-14: The Individual and the Social

How far are epiphanies and other kinds of experience individual phenomena, and in what senses might they involve - or even require - others? In these classes I will argue that we should accept that when it comes to both the character and development of experience, the social does not just precede the individual, but in fact creates it. We will discuss five particular ways in which the social is constitutively involved in individuality: in child-development, in scripts, in audiences, in empathy, and in the publicity of the mental.

Reading:

Epiphanies, ch.7

Deguchi, Y. (2025) The WE-turn of Action: Principles. Open Philosophy, Vol. 8 (Issue 1), pp. 20250092.
<https://doi.org/10.1515/opphil-2025-0092>

Class 15: Feedback session

Concluding remarks and integration of the themes from the course. Student questions and feedback taken.

【履修要件】

A good level of English (speaking, reading, writing) is required. No prior philosophical knowledge is assumed.

【成績評価の方法・観点】

Students will be evaluated through regular short writing assignments (70%) and a final exam (30%)

【教科書】

Sophie-Grace Chappell 『Epiphanies: An Ethics of Experience』 (Oxford University Press) ISBN:978 0192858016

【授業外学修（予習・復習）等】

Students will be expected to read excerpts from the assigned textbook in preparation for the class, to take notes and to review them between classes. Reading prompts will be provided for assistance.

【その他（オフィスアワー等）】

【主要授業科目（学部・学科名）】