PHIL 2016: The Philosophy and Ethics of Lying and Deception

Professor: Don Fallis (d.fallis@northeastern.edu)

Sequence: M/W/R 10:30-11:35am
Examines lying and other forms of deception in a wide range of modern contexts from advertising to politics, using different theoretical approaches. Offers students an opportunity to use philosophical and economic theories to investigate what lying is, why people lie, when and why it is wrong to lie, how we can learn from other people even though they might be lying, and how social institutions affect—and are affected by—all of this lying. In modern society, we are confronted with lies, spin, fake news, and even “BS” on a daily basis. Since these forms of deception play such a central role in human life, many philosophers—including Plato, Augustine, and Kant—have studied the ontology, ethics, epistemology, economics, and logic of lying and deception.

NU PATH:
ER- Employing Ethical Reasoning
SI- Understanding Societies and Institutions

This course can be used for:
- Philosophy Major
- Philosophy Minor
- Information Ethics Minor
- Ethics Minor