The topics of the greatest philosophers - the nature of reality, the limits to knowledge, the origin of good and evil, the problem of power - are also the themes of some of the best movies. This course explores philosophical ideas and problems as they arise in various films by pairing texts with films. By the end of the course, students will have been introduced to a wide range of topics in epistemology and philosophy of mind, metaphysics, theology, perception, moral and political philosophy, and aesthetics as well as gained insights into some very good films.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:

- **No Grade Requested (NGR)**
  - Just show up for class! No work required; no credit received; no proof of attendance provided.
- **Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)**
  - Just show up, at least 80% of the time.
- **Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)**
  - Attend at least 80% of class sessions and write a short paper analyzing a philosophical problem that arises in a film. (The film may be either one we discussed in class or another of your choice.)

*Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

*Note: The titles given below indicate the general neighborhood of the philosophical topics we will explore. We won’t be reading all these books in their entirety, but rather selections from them and in some cases presentations of their arguments by other authors. All readings will be available online.

Meeting #1: Introduction
Why philosophy and film?

Meeting #2: Consciousness, Knowledge, and Identity
Ridley Scott, *Blade Runner*
René Descartes, *Meditations*
Meeting #3: Becoming a Person: Commitment
Alain Resnais, Hiroshima mon amour
Søren Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling

Meeting #4: Becoming a Person: Self-Fashioning
Jean-Luc Godard, Breathless
Friedrich Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil

Meeting #5: Love
Alfred Hitchcock, Vertigo
Plato, Symposium

Meeting #6: Human Nature and Political Authority
Stanley Kubrick, A Clockwork Orange
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Discourse on Inequality

Meeting #7: Power and Authority Relationships
Joseph Losey, The Servant
G.F.W. Hegel, “The Dialectic of Master and Slave,” in Phenomenology of Spirit

Meeting #8: Time
Chris Marker, La Jetée
David Lewis, “The Paradoxes of Time Travel”

Meeting #9: Life, the Universe, God....
Stanley Kubrick, 2001: A Space Odyssey
Derek Parfit, “Why Anything? Why This?”

Meeting #10: Philosophy and Life
Louis Malle, My Dinner with Andre
Michael Oakeshott, “The Voice of Poetry in the Conversation of Mankind”