Coordinator:
Jim Pack

THE PHILOSOPHER'S TOOLKIT: Learn how to sharpen your problem-solving skills and make better decisions and arguments in this dynamic course that helps you put philosophy's most practical tools into action. Thinking is fundamental to our daily lives. The Philosopher's Toolkit surveys strategies to improve our thinking-visualization, simplification, the principles of debate, and techniques for social reasoning. Because the best philosophy is done in conjunction with other disciplines, you'll apply these tools to economics, psychology, and more. Thinking is one of the things we do best. Wouldn't it be great if we could do it even better? This course gives you a set of thinking techniques designed with that goal in mind: tools for conceptual visualization, critical analysis, creative thinking, logical inference, rational decision, real-world testing, effective reasoning and rational argument. We will use interactive engagement to introduce a range of conceptual methods and perspectives mind-stretching philosophical puzzles, mental exercises by example, thought experiments on which to test your powers and deep questions to ponder.