



## ***Philosophy of the Person, Phil 12-02***

***Fall '22, Dr. Dan C. Williamson***

***10:30am-11:45am, SH241***

*Required Texts:*

Kupperman, Joel J.; *Theories of Human Nature*, Hackett, 2010; isbn: 13-978-1-60384-292-1

Kupperman, Joel J. ed., *Human Nature: A Reader*, Hackett, 2010, isbn: `13-978-2-60384-745-2  
(This comes as a set; it is probably cheaper to buy them separately, hard copy or online)

Sacks, Oliver; *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, Touchstone, 1998; isbn: 13-978-0684853949

*Recommended:*

*In this difficult time, it is as important to ask how we are as much as it is to ask what we are.* Modern philosophy has concentrated on the latter, with an emphasis on the *what*. Is individual or personal identity a function of a brain, a consciousness apart from a brain, are humans dual, a mind/brain and body? Or is a person, a self, a function solely of the body? This course will entertain these ideas but its primary orientation will be to ask *how* persons are. Namely, personal or self-identity is first and foremost an ethical question of how persons are with oneself and others, as relations. This was the main concern of the Ancient Greeks and the Asian sages (Confucius, Buddha and many more besides). The Ancient thinkers would assert that it is our virtues (and vices!) that constitute who we are, both within ourselves and, just as important as we are with others both politically and socially. And more contemporaneously, gender, race, ethnicity and class identities may be as important as wondering whether we're a soul trapped in a body. Identities may be the function of social forces (and construction). We will consider these ideas in the course as they arise ethically as well as a question of knowledge (epistemology).

**Fulfills GE Area E**