**METHODS OF PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS**

*Course Instructor: Brian HILL, Affiliate Professor HEC Paris*

**Presentation and objectives**

Knowledge plays a central role in both professional and private life, not only as an end in itself, but also as valuable tool for informing our decisions and actions. But what exactly is knowledge? What distinguishes it from simple belief, for example? And how can one acquire knowledge? These and other related questions have been at the centre of much philosophical reflection. This course will investigate some of the main concepts and approaches to the notions of knowledge and belief in contemporary analytical philosophy. Not only will it provide an introduction to the principal issues in various fields of philosophy which treat, in some way or another, the notions of knowledge or belief, but it will serve as an exercise in rigorous philosophical analysis and thought, using conceptual as well as formal methods. In passing, we shall discuss some relationships with theories of rational choice, cognitive psychology, artificial intelligence and statistics.

**Format**

The course will run for 6 weeks, with one 3-hour lesson a week.

**Course content**

- Introduction to the philosophy of knowledge: what is knowledge, and what sorts of knowledge are there?

- Introduction to the philosophy of belief: what does it mean to believe something?

- Models of knowledge and belief

- Dynamics of knowledge and belief: how does our knowledge progress? How do and should we change our beliefs?

**Individual work**

Most of the required material will be provided in the lectures. There will be optional background reading, and obligatory reading projects.

**Evaluation**

- Group projects;

- Participation.