PS299 Mind over Matter

May 25th – June 9th, 2018

This 2 week course will examine animal minds from both a biological and philosophical perspective. Beginning with a survey of the human-animal divide in Western philosophy and cognitive biology, the course will investigate the following questions: What is a mind, and who or what can have one? What can we learn about animal minds from the scientists who study them? How do animals perceive the world? Do they have memories? Self-awareness? Language? Rationality? Pleasure and pain and emotion? By engaging in field research observing different kinds of animals native to the Dingle Peninsula, we will consider what animal minds might tell us about the nature, value, and meaning of human and nonhuman animal life. Enjoy group dinners at a variety of local pubs, excursions to see surrounding archeological sites, an overnight trip to beautiful Killarney, a day trip to the Blasket Islands, and more. For more information, contact Prof. Eric Recktenwald (eric.recktenwald@alvernia.edu) or Prof. Josh Hayes (Josh.Hayes@alvernia.edu).



Apply by February 15th, 2018

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