

## **FIL2405/4405 Spring 2023**

“If it is possible that Whiskers is necessarily a cat, then Whiskers is necessarily a cat”. Is this true? To help them think about this kind of question, philosophers often use *modal logic*, i.e., logics of possibility and necessity broadly construed. In this course, we will cover the semantics and axiom systems for a variety of propositional modal logics, quantified modal logics, and quantified modal logics with identity. As well as this, we will regularly pivot to discuss a variety of philosophical issues which are either best understood using these logics or which arise with the study of these logics, e.g. the question of which axioms for the modal operators are “correct”, the question of whether identity is necessary, the actualism-possibilism debate, and the contingentism-necessitism debate. To end, we will look at broader questions about logic itself. In particular, we will cover anti-exceptionalism about logic and Quinean arguments against modal logic as a legitimate logic.