

TRUTH, HALF-TRUTH, & POST-TRUTH

RLST 27140

Dr. Russell Johnson

Winter 2020

Tu/Th 11:00 – 12:20

This course examines the philosophical and ethical issues surrounding lying, truth-telling, and everything in between. Students will put classics of the Western and Indian philosophical traditions into conversation with contemporary analyses of “alternative facts” and postmodern criticisms of absolute truth. Are half-truths just another kind of lie, or stepping-stones to a more complex understanding? Is it even possible to tell “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth”? Is it morally permissible to mislead someone for their own good, or for a leader to deceive their citizens?

How can we act responsibly when there are two sides to every story?

