

# The Metaphysics of Goodness



**H**ow might assuming the best help us understand the world? According to Gottfried Leibniz, the world is most rationally explained by assuming that all things are ordered with an eye towards what is good and even best. Things happen for a good reason—not only human actions, but events in the natural world as well. This seminar will introduce students to the metaphysics of Leibniz, a field of study that seeks to explain the ultimate nature of reality. We will read selections from his *Discourse on Metaphysics* and his *Monadology*. Our goal will be to see how Leibniz’s approach to the deepest questions of philosophy might help us better understand the nature of God, the world, and our place in it. This seminar is free and open to all Cal and GTU students.



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Professor of Philosophy at  
Graduate Theological Union  
Senior Fellow, Berkeley Institute

## **DATES**

Wednesday evenings on  
4.5, 4.12, 4.19, 4.26

## **TIME**

5:30–7:00 PM

## **LOCATION**

Berkeley Institute  
2134 Allston Way

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