Students at Jacksonville University are required to take Introduction to Philosophy. How quaint. If they get it with Scott Kimbrough, who chairs the division of humanities, the first thing they learn is bullshit. No, really — the opening lecture is on the subject of bullshit, as in baloney. There are bullshit artists, and there are bullshit experts; fortunately for JU undergrads, Dr. Kimbrough is one of the latter.

Kimbrough didn't write the book "On Bullshit" — that volume, slim enough to be kept in one’s pocket and consulted throughout the day, is by Harry Frankfurt, the unimprovably named American philosopher. Kimbrough has published an acclaimed critique of the book, however, in which he expands the definition of the term to include unintentional bullshit, contending that a person can bullshit without meaning to, and warns of "the particular danger of believing your own bullshit."

Of course, Kimbrough’s Intro students are thrilled just to hear their professor say "bullshit." Repeatedly. (The current crop, judging by their snickering at the mere mention of homosexuality in a class two weeks ago, must have been in hysteric.) Come final exam, it’s the topic they’ve retained best. Meta-ethics may or may not sink in, but bullshit sticks.

Traditionally and prohibitively academic, the field of philosophy could use a little repackaging, and in the case of Kimbrough’s lecturing underclassmen on bullshit, how better to do so than profanely. “I want to bring the idea of philosophy down to earth, instead of it being, ‘Here are our hallowed philosophers before whom you should bow down,''” the professor says in his campus office, which is filled with books, sunlight, and artwork by Tonia, his wife of 21 years. Photos of their two kids are all over the place.

Kimbrough’s aim of making philosophy accessible extends beyond the classroom, however, and into that other, less-hallowed hub of critical thinking, the barroom. With two like-minded JU colleagues, Kimbrough hosts a popular, long-running series of — hang on — philosophy slams. Held monthly in unassuming bars in the urban core, the event offers students and everyone else a chance to engage scholars on topics ranging from “Is That Art?” and “Is Plastic Surgery Fake?” to Kimbrough’s own — spread the word — “The Structure and Function of Bullshit.” No hallowed-philosophers bowing down here.

For Kimbrough, engaging in philosophical exercise — and inviting people to crawl in off the streets to help with the job — is a matter of social progress. It’s not only how he’s helping make philosophy more accessible, but also why he wants to in the first place. “We filter between things that are serious and things that are bullshit because we have only so much time and attention,” he says. “So it actually matters how one distinguishes bullshit from serious discussion.” Referring to the broader, more encompassing definition of bullshit he proposes in his Frankfurt critique, he adds, “The way I go about it makes it harder because you can’t just..."
ask yourself, "Am I being sincere?" We don't get at work or just being sincere?" Tell me. Skim is an upper-level class on the subject. On a Tuesday morning in February, 2016, he explains. "I'm more interested in the one's course of action depends on the situation. He is also bald, bearded and has a slight build and dark, closely cropped hair. His physique and intellect make him look older than he is. Kimbrough was on hand, introduces the evening's guest speaker, Colavito, calling him "a Socratic kind of guy." He is also bald, bearded and has a slight build and dark, closely cropped hair.

Kimbrough, who is a native of Abilene, Texas, which has been described as "the original home of the West," has been an active participant in the philosophical community for many years. He has taught courses on philosophy at Florida State University and has been a frequent guest speaker at philosophical symposiums and conferences across the country. He is also known for his engaging teaching style, which has earned him a reputation as a "philosophy slam" host. In his free time, Kimbrough enjoys playing video games and experimenting with new philosophical ideas. He is also an avid reader, with a particular interest in the works of Søren Kierkegaard and Nietzsche.

Kimbrough, who is also well-known for his humorous approach to philosophy, recently gave a talk on the topic of love. The audience was expected to ask questions and engage in a discussion about the topic. As the presentation began, Kimbrough asked the audience to consider the following question: "What is love?" The audience was divided, with some saying that love is a matter of emotion, while others believed that love is a matter of reason.

Kimbrough then went on to discuss the philosophical implications of love, stating that love is a complex emotion that involves both rational and emotional components. He also discussed the idea that love is a necessary aspect of human life, as it allows people to connect with others and to experience a sense of belonging.

Kimbrough then introduced a group of students who were going to give presentations on different aspects of love. The first student, a junior named Emily, spoke on the topic of romantic love, discussing the different types of love and their effects on people. The next student, a senior named John, discussed the idea of platonic love, stating that it is a form of love that is not based on physical attraction.

As the presentations continued, the audience was engaged in a lively discussion, with many asking questions and sharing their own thoughts on the topic of love. The presentation ended with a group discussion, during which the audience was encouraged to share their own experiences and thoughts on the topic of love.

Kimbrough then thanked the students for their contributions and closed the presentation by encouraging the audience to continue to think about the topic of love and to explore the different aspects of it. He ended the presentation with a quote from Søren Kierkegaard: "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forward."