

This course is an introduction to philosophy through a study of seminal texts of enduring importance. Among the topics we will discuss in this course are the nature of reality, the nature of knowledge, the mind-body relationship, our continuity with animals, the nature of good and evil, the foundations of morality, the morality of euthanasia, the nature of friendship, female and male nature, arguments for God's existence, and explanations of the existence of evil. There will also be a short unit on logic and philosophical writing. Through an exploration of these questions, the course will introduce you to the major branches of philosophy - metaphysics, ethics, epistemology, and logic - and the work of some major philosophers (and scientists) who have changed our conception of ourselves and the world we live in. The course will also help you develop the analytic and argumentative skills needed for a philosophical examination of issues - not just the issues that arise in this and other philosophy classes you take, but also the issues that arise in everyday life.

The three objectives of this course are:

1. familiarity with the major branches of philosophy
2. familiarity with the work of some major philosophers
3. development of the analytic and argumentative skills needed for a philosophical examination of important issues.

The texts will include Plato, The Trial and Death of Socrates, Mill, The Subjection of Women, a Primis textbook (a collection of readings), and a coursepack from King Kopy.