

## **PHIL 151**

In this class, our focus will be on critical thinking, critical reading, and argumentative writing, which are important skills both in most academic disciplines and most career paths. All these skills help us to comprehend ideas and then evaluate the legitimacy of beliefs, claims, and arguments, so that we don't become prisoners of our own prejudices or assumptions, or of our culture's norms and values. The ability to question, analyze, and judge the strength of claims is essentially the ability to think for yourself. Since we need a topic *about* which to think critically, our general theme will be the significance of mortality: what impact does death have on human life? We will examine the issues of personal identity, the meaning of life, defining what death is, and euthanasia/assisted suicide.