

Traditionally, philosophy is defined as the love of wisdom, but philosophers disagree about what wisdom is and how we ought to pursue it. As a way into the practice and content of philosophy, we will study a variety of historically significant approaches to knowledge, freedom, ethics, and social justice. All of them in some way address the animating question of this course: What is enlightenment? What situation of darkness are we in, that we need enlightenment? What are we trying to achieve through our questioning? By confronting these questions as philosophers, we will realize that the search for wisdom through critical thinking, constructive dialogue, and argumentative writing is a fundamentally human activity, with value across disciplines and in our lives more generally.