

Course Description

The word "philosophy" comes from the Ancient Greek words "philo," meaning "love for," and "sophia," meaning wisdom. Literally, philosophy is the "love of wisdom." As a discipline, it is the study of the history of ideas and ways of thinking. Philosophers tend to grapple with life's "big questions": Does evil exist? Do we have free will? How does the mind work? What the relationship between mind and body? How can we tell if an action is right or wrong? How can we tell if we are "good" people? What are our moral obligations to other persons, nonhuman animals, and the natural world?

In this class, we will explore these and other philosophical questions through a survey of major philosophers, theories, movements, and frameworks. We will examine the history of ideas through close reading and discussion primary source texts, and we will critically evaluate the merits and shortcomings of these various worldviews.

Successful students in the course will:

- Define key terms and concepts in the study of philosophy
- Describe and discuss key philosophical issues, questions, frameworks, and debates
- Summarize, analyze, and critically discuss primary source texts, in both verbal and written forms
- Critique arguments and implicit assumptions found in writing, speech, and debate
- Construct cogent, compelling arguments in both verbal and written forms
- Have fun!