Course Objectives

This course will provide a basic introduction to the central questions asked by philosophers, including the nature of justice, the character of ethical action and the relationship between philosophy and political dissent. We'll explore how knowledge of the world is often also a kind of self-knowledge, and how philosophy offers us useful models of dialogue and debate. The value of philosophy to an understanding of art and literature will also be explored, and students will be encouraged to connect the thinkers discussed both in their agreements and disagreements.

Learning Outcomes

Students will accomplish the course objectives through careful and diligent reading, written assignments, and considered contribution to class discussion.

Required Books (available at the bookstore):


