The De anima is Aristotle’s treatment of soul, and the Parva Naturalia is a group of texts, following right after it in the traditional order, that focuses on topics having to do with the relation of soul and body. These treatises are fascinating in their subject matters, in their manner of treatment, and in what they say about their topics. They have also been very influential. We engage in a close investigation of these works and some of the major interpretations proposed regarding them. Students should develop a good familiarity with these works, Aristotle’s thinking more generally, and how to read his writings. The paper assignments should contribute to the professional development of graduate students and competence in philosophical argumentation of undergraduates.

The four assigned papers are of three to four pages each. Papers will typically focus on a single argument or line of argument in the text. A paper may be rewritten and resubmitted if the original has been discussed with me.

This course fulfills the ancient requirement for graduate students.