Course Description: This course will introduce some of the fundamental questions of philosophy in epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics through selections from Plato, Descartes, Kant and Nietzsche and so on. Some of the questions we will address are:

- What is real? Is there a distinction between reality and appearance?
- Can we escape from scepticism and find absolute truths about reality? Can subjectivity be a source of objectivity?
- What is the best way to live? Why should we be moral?

Our course is more about thinking and thinking things through than the memorization of a bunch of facts. And as our course is designed to be an introduction to philosophy and its problems, it is not intended to be comprehensive or exhaustive. The classic materials are selected to provide a basis for understanding central debates within the field.

Course Objectives: Students will acquire a certain familiarity with the basic philosophical problems and arguments that have arisen in the history of philosophy through a reading of primary sources.

Learning Outcomes: Students will learn to think argumentatively. They will learn to provide good reasons in support of their claims and come to be able to raise philosophically meaningful questions. And ideally, having acquainted with the marks left by a wide array of thinkers in the history of thought, students will come to experience a difference in their perception of the world.