Almost 2500 years ago Socrates said that the unexamined life is not worth living. The contemporary philosopher Cornell West says: “[A] philosopher is a lover of wisdom. It takes tremendous discipline it takes tremendous courage, to think for yourself, to examine yourself. The Socratic imperative of examining yourself requires courage. Courage is the enabling virtue for any philosopher—for any human being, I think, in the end.”

Course Objectives

1. To learn about philosophy, its methods, questions and perspectives on a range of important questions—What is the good life? How should we live with others—humans and non-human animals? What is a just society?

2. To engage as philosophers ourselves with the readings, in our online discussions and written work.

PHILOSOPHY 401 SATISFIES GE CATEGORY 8 & DISCOVERY HUMANITIES