Philosophy 500 is a required workshop for all philosophy majors. The purpose of the course is twofold. First, we work together on skills connected to reading, writing and discussing philosophy successfully. For example, we will learn how to write a summary, and an abstract, how to extract a thesis and how to write an outline. We will also learn how to evaluate philosophical writing. Finally, we will learn how to construct a philosophical essay. We will consider the use of secondary sources, find one and summarize it. We will use these reading and writing exercises as opportunities to discuss philosophical topics, and to reflect on the virtues (and vices) of philosophical conversation. The second purpose of the course is to provide a context for your future (and past) philosophical studies. In this regard we will study different areas of philosophy, we will consider the history of philosophy and the issues surrounding interpretation of historical texts, we will consider different philosophical perspectives (e.g. analytic philosophy, feminism) and we will become familiar with standard philosophical terminology. Oh, and I forgot about the fun!