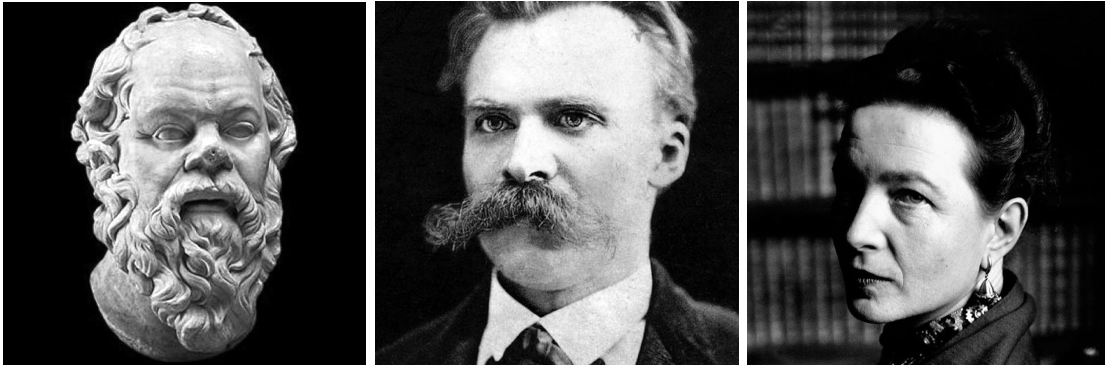


**Duquesne University**  
**McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts**  
**Spring 2019**  
**Christopher Lutz**

Basic Philosophical Questions  
 UCOR 132-02  
 Classroom: CH 223  
 MWF 9:00-9:50



**Course Description:**

Basic Philosophical Questions is a requirement for all undergraduates at Duquesne, regardless of their major or whether or not they have any interest in philosophy. But I would like you to think of your BPQ class as a sort of *mandatory opportunity* — an opportunity to read, write, and think about things which you otherwise might not have encountered. We will study important texts from the history of philosophy in this course, but we do not want to make the mistake of assuming that philosophy is the work of philosophers alone; this being the case, we will read not only philosophers, but also works by artists as well as by critical race and gender theorists.

As we move through the semester, we will be asking questions such as these: What *is* philosophy? Why in the world should I care about it? What is truth? What is art? Can we know with certainty that God exists? Can we discover God's existence scientifically? What does it mean to live a good life? What happens when we die? Can we trust our eyes, ears, nose, etc.? What is the difference between knowledge and faith? What does it mean for two or more things to be different? There are multiple answers to each one of these questions, and this course will consist in our collective effort to work our way through just a few of them the best that we can, in order to learn where, how, and why something can be called philosophical.

Overall, I want you to have fun reading, discussing, and writing about the topics we undertake, and to learn things that will be useful to your lives even if you never take another philosophy class or read a work of philosophy again.