Course Description
This course introduces students to various philosophical perspectives through reading foundational texts from the Western philosophical tradition. By no means is this survey meant to be a comprehensive study of figures, movements, or periods in the history of philosophy. Instead, the main focus will be on analysis and interpretation of philosophical texts. The understanding of a philosophical text will come through comprehension of technical language, analysis of essential arguments, and recognition of historical and philosophical context. Students will be encouraged to integrate different philosophical perspectives with their own and attempt to apply such views to their experience. Primary texts will come from Ancient Greek and Early Modern philosophy. Primary authors will include Plato, Hellenistic philosophers (Epicurus, Epictetus, and Sextus Empiricus), and René Descartes. We will also examine three important interpreters of these ancient and modern sources from contemporary philosophy - Martin Heidegger, Michael Foucault, and Pierre Hadot.

Texts
René Descartes, *Discourse on Method* (pts. 1-4)
Sextus Empiricus, *Outlines of Pyrrhonism* (selections)
Epictetus, *The Handbook*
Epicurus, Letter to Menoecus
Foucault, *Hermeneutics of the Subject* (selections)
Pierre Hadot, *Philosophy as a Way of Life* (selections)
Martin Heidegger, *The Essence of Truth* (selections)
Plato’s Cave Allegory in *Republic*
Plato, *Apology of Socrates*

Evaluation
Attendance and participation (30%); First paper (15%); Midterm exam (15%); Second paper (20%); Final exam (20%)