This is an introduction to philosophical issues through the writings of historically significant philosophers. This course satisfies the general education humanities requirement and is included in the Great Books and Ideas pathway minor.

Readings
Books
Douglas Soccio, How to Get the Most Out of Philosophy, 7th edition. This book is available at the Wildcat Store.


Readings Available as pdfs via blackboard learn.

Xenophanes, Heraclitus, Parmenides, The Sophists (Protagoras and Gorgias), Plato (Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Symposium, Timaeus), Aristotle (selections from Nicomachean Ethics on friendship, virtue, and the mean), Buddha (The Four Noble Truths and the Eight Fold Path), Confucius and Mencius (Selections), Bhagavad-Gita (Fate), Chang Tzu (The Way), Anselm (Ontological Argument), Hume (On Miracles), Mill (On Liberty chapter two), William James (The Moral Philosopher and the Moral Life; The Will to Believe), Thoreau (Walden, chapter one), Emerson (Gifts.)

Your Grade
There will be ten weekly ten point tests. Quizzes occur every Thursday. I count your best nine. There are no make ups for missed quizzes. If you do not believe the previous sentence ask around.

Students will post one blog comment explaining a selection from Chang Tzu. The selection is assigned by the luck of the draw. I will grade the blog post from 0 to 5 points. Students will comment on three other postings which I will grade 0 to 2. That adds up to a possible 101 points.

Blog posts are graded on philosophical content and to a lesser degree creativity of interpretation via contrast with other course readings. Blog comments that earn 0’s are attaboys, repeats, feelings, subjective impressions, irrelevant comments, and questions to are left unanswered.

Etiquette
You are allowed three absences. (Better make them Tuesdays.) There are NO excused absences. After three I lower your final grade a level for each additional absence. No late arrivals. No in and outs. Late arrivals on a test day may NOT take the test. No food unless you bring enough for everyone. No laptops. No electronic devices.

A full reading and quiz schedule will be made available via blackboard learn.