This course is designed for students—those aspiring to be educators as well as those interested in education as a field of study in and of itself—who wish to explore the nature and purposes of education from a thoughtful, critical, and, ultimately, philosophical perspective. The course provides an overview of the ideas and concepts that throughout history have formed the basis for educational practice. From the ancient Greeks to contemporary society, education has consistently been guided by foundational assumptions concerning the nature of human beings, the universe, knowledge, and the state. By studying these ideas and learning about their practical consequences for the content, organization, and distribution of education, students develop the ability to think, write and talk more deeply about education. Questions about what it means to be educated, the moral obligations of teachers, and the social aims and visions embedded in various approaches to education form a central component of this course. Students are introduced to the history of philosophy of education through the study of classical theorists from Plato and Aristotle to Locke, Kant, Rousseau, and Dewey as well as contemporary thinkers, such as Nel Noddings, Cornel West, and Martha Nussbaum.

NOTE: HONORS CREDIT ONLY BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH INSTRUCTOR