What is the modern self? Through the eyes of some of the most influential writers of the last three centuries we will explore the new ways of thinking about the individual that emerged during and after the Enlightenment. Beginning with Rousseau who gave us the inward looking self and its conflicts with society, we will then read texts by Wordsworth, Freud, Proust, Woolf, and Dostoevsky. We will look at their response to the breakdown of religious and philosophical explanations that had once defined the self’s relationship to its world; the psychological tension between a belief in an autonomous self at home in its world and the notion of a fragmented, alienated self-buffeted by forces in nature, society, and the unconscious; the role of memory and narration in reconstructing the self, and other questions about childhood, deception, sexuality, art, and language that have come to preoccupy our culture. Students will be asked to write two-three short papers and regular written exercises.

Perry Hodges received her doctorate in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University. She has studied and lived abroad, most recently in Paris, and taught at Indiana University School of Law until 2007 and at Adilet School of Law in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She now concentrates her teaching at the Hutton Honors College, focusing on literatures ranging from ancient to modern with a special interest in law and literature, concepts of the modern self, literary interpretation, and psychoanalysis. As a teacher she encourages critical and creative thinking and an appreciation of the world of nature.

**COURSE TEXTS**

- Selection from Descartes’ Meditations
- Rousseau’s Confessions
- Selections from Wordsworth’s selections The Prelude
- Freud’s The Wolf Man
- Proust’s Swann’s Way
- Woolf’s Mrs. Dalloway
- Dostoevsky’s Notes from Underground