

Core Texts and Ideas (CTI)

CTI 301G Introduction to Ancient Greece 3 Hours

Greatness of Greece as reflected in Greek history, literature, philosophy, art, religion, and politics. No knowledge of Greek is required.

CTI 302 Classics of Social and Political Thought 3 Hours

Explores the origins of social scientific thought in the history of political philosophy and traces the development of one or more of the social sciences in modern times. Focuses on fundamental ideas about human nature, civil society, and politics, explored through reading such authors as Aristotle, Aquinas, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Freud.

CTI 303 Competing Visions of the Good Life 3 Hours

Introduces the great rival conceptions of the moral basis and goals of political life as elaborated by revolutionary thinkers throughout the history of political philosophy, including Aristotle, Aquinas, Locke, late modern critics of the Enlightenment, and others.

CTI 304 Topics in World Religions: Traditions and Texts 3 Hours

A study of basic religious texts, including both the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, examined from various perspectives (including comparative, historical, philosophical, and literary), with emphasis on the fundamental questions and ideas raised in those texts.

CTI 305G Introduction to the Old Testament 3 Hours

Introduction to the many interpretations of the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament) and its meaning in the context of its historical and cultural setting in the ancient Near East.

CTI 305N Introduction to the New Testament 3 Hours

Examines representative examples of the texts found in the Christian New Testament and selected noncanonical writings. Focuses on historical setting and systematic methods of interpretation.

CTI 306D History of the Religions of Asia 3 Hours

Eastern religions: an introduction to the basic forms and the historical development of the religious traditions of India, China, and Japan.

CTI 310 Topics in Core Texts and Ideas 3 Hours

Introduction to fundamental texts and questions that have helped shape the world.

CTI 310.3 Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion 3 Hours

A critical examination of various conceptions of God and of the relationship of the human and the divine.

CTI 315C The Bible and Its Interpreters 3 Hours

Seeks to develop a wide-ranging familiarity with the Jewish and Christian Bibles and with the dominant modes of ancient, medieval, and early modern biblical interpretation. Readings include an extensive range of primary sources, including both the Scriptures themselves and some of their most influential exegetes.

CTI 119S, 219S, 319S, 419S, 519S, 619S, 719S, 819S, 919S Topics in Core Texts and Ideas 1-9 Hours

This course is used to record credit the student earns while enrolled at another institution in a program administered by the University's Study Abroad Office. Credit is recorded as assigned by the study abroad adviser in the College of Liberal Arts. University credit is awarded for work in an exchange program; it may be counted as coursework taken in residence. Transfer credit is awarded for work in an affiliated studies program.

CTI 320 The Classical Quest for Justice 3 Hours

Introduces students to classical political thought through a study of seminal works of antiquity, focusing on those of Plato and Aristotle.

CTI 321 The Theoretical Foundations of Modern Politics 3 Hours

Examines competing foundations of the ongoing development of political and social modernity. Examines a selection of major authors from Machiavelli to Nietzsche.

CTI 321F Spinoza and Modernity 3 Hours

Introduction to the core of Spinoza's writings and the diverse reactions they have elicited. Examines Spinoza's refusal of mind-body dualism, as well as a transcendent god or ideal as a way of understanding Spinoza's concepts and ideas.

CTI 322 Critics of Modern Liberalism 3 Hours

Selected critics of the philosophy of the Enlightenment from both the Left and the Right, and from the time of Rousseau to the present.

CTI 323 Might and Right among Nations 3 Hours

Major alternative approaches to the question of the moral character of international relations, as elaborated by some of the greatest political thinkers.

CTI 324 Politics and Literature 3 Hours

Explores the "old battle between the poets and philosophers," in which the two sides battle for recognition as the deepest source of wisdom about politics and ethics. Includes readings from great works of political philosophy and literature.

CTI 325 Morality and Politics 3 Hours

Interdisciplinary readings from major works exploring issues of ethics and leadership.

CTI 325C Citizenship and Patriotism 3 Hours

Examine the idea of patriotism and citizenship over history, from classical antiquity to contemporary times. Analyze the moral and political value of patriotism, nationalism and cosmopolitanism.

CTI 325D Chinese Ethics and Political Philosophy 3 Hours

Examine Chinese ethical and political philosophy, with an emphasis on the Confucian tradition, through close reading of major works. Analyze ideas from the course both philosophically and historically.

CTI 325M Liberty and Empire: Machiavelli 3 Hours

Explore Machiavelli's reputations through the examination of his works and analyze how those reputations relate to Machiavelli's own positioning and self-understanding.

CTI 325P Thomas Paine, Liberalism, and the Enlightenment 3 Hours

Analyze the purpose and philosophy of Thomas Paine's writings in their relation to the political thought and politics of his time.

CTI 326C Constitutional Interpretation 3 Hours

Designed to improve reasoning and communication skills through constitutional interpretation. Determining what the Constitution means, how to determine what it means, and who should determine what it means.

CTI 326J African American Social and Political Thought 3 Hours

Examines the speeches and writings by major theorists and critics of the prophetic tradition of black political thought.

CTI 326L Civil Liberties 3 Hours

Explore the United States constitution and Supreme Court with a focus on civil rights and liberties.

CTI 326R Regime Perspectives on American Politics 3 Hours

Explore American politics and culture and examine how the parts of America fit together as a whole.

CTI 326S Structure of Individual Liberties 3 Hours

Explore the ways in which the Constitution protects individual rights while accommodating the often competing claims of state, groups, and communities.

CTI 327C Archaic Greece: Society and Culture 3 Hours

CTI 327D The History of Rome: The Republic 3 Hours

A survey of Roman history from the founding of Rome to the death of Julius Caesar.

CTI 327E Roots of Democracy 3 Hours

Examine the historical development and ideological underpinnings of Athenian democracy, the first known democracy, from the sixth to fourth centuries BCE. Explore a broad range of primary sources and some secondary scholarships and gain a familiarity with the key principles and practices of this unique participatory government in its political, historical, and intellectual context.

CTI 328D Death and the Afterlife in Graeco-Roman Antiquity 3 Hours

Explore the afterlife from Near Eastern myths and Homer through Greek and Roman antiquity to the early Church Fathers.

CTI 329 The Ancient Historians 3 Hours

Examines the main works of ancient historiography, and provides grounding in the central issues with which these works engage.

CTI 129S, 229S, 329S, 429S, 529S, 629S, 729S, 829S, 929S Topics in Core Texts and Ideas 1-9 Hours

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CTI 330J Jerusalem and Athens 3 Hours

Examine the age-old confrontation between the teaching of the Bible and the politics and philosophy of the ancient Greeks.

CTI 330M Machiavelli: Politics and Culture 3 Hours

Through Niccolò Machiavelli's chief writings, consider the local, regional, Mediterranean, European, and global aspects of his work.

CTI 330R The Political Thought of the Reformation 3 Hours

Examine the thought of the Reformation, especially of Martin Luther and John Calvin, including both their chief theological ideas and the implications of these ideas for politics and ethics. Explore the themes of justification; free will and predestination; original sin; the doctrine of the two kingdoms; the roots and nature of political authority; the question of toleration; the relationship between divine, natural, and civil law; and the status of the papacy.

CTI 331 Origins of Liberalism 3 Hours

Examine the theory of liberal democracy through a study of its development in historical, religious, and political contexts.

CTI 332 The Sacred and the Secular in Modern European Thought 3 Hours

Introduces key themes and methodologies of intellectual history and social theory by exploring the dueling approaches to secularization and sacralization in modern European thought.

CTI 333 Rousseau and His Legacy 3 Hours

Examine Rousseau's complex legacy through the reading of his essential political texts and reading contemporary responses to his thought.

CTI 335C History of Christian Philosophy 3 Hours

Examines the history of Christian philosophy through classic Christian thought, concerning what can be known and how people should live.

CTI 335E Hegel and the Formation of Modern European Identity 3 Hours

An in-depth study of how Hegel identifies the social conditions necessary for personal self-realization but also for freedom by means of political community.

CTI 335M Marx and Marxist Theory 3 Hours

Introduction to the writings of Karl Marx as well as to those of his intellectual successors in Europe and around the globe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

CTI 338 The Question of Relativism 3 Hours

Examine the idea of relativism: what relativism is, what the fact and value distinction is, how the idea of moral relativism has shaped modern political thought, and what the arguments for and against relativism are. Explore the philosophic roots of the position in authors like Max Weber and Friedrich Nietzsche, as well as critics of relativism like Leo Strauss.

CTI 339 The Pursuit of Happiness 3 Hours

Investigate happiness and how it is attained. Examine contrasting perspectives on happiness or human flourishing offered by major thinkers, both religious and secular, representing different epochs, cultures, and theoretical approaches.

CTI 339M The Meaning of Life 3 Hours

Investigate the meaning of life, exploring pre-modern perspectives, modern views including those of the nineteenth through twenty-first centuries, and contemporary problems such as whether AI poses new threats to meaning in life.

CTI 340 Ancient Epic 3 Hours

Explore epic poems of Greece and Rome in translation.

CTI 341 Moral Agency In Greek Tragedy 3 Hours

Subjects include the masterpieces of Greek tragedy, the social and cultural background of the texts, and questions posed by the texts.

CTI 342 Satan and the Idea of Evil 3 Hours

Explore the history and breadth of Satan's role as a character (or background presence) in literature while developing close-reading techniques for literary analysis that can be applied across diverse eras, forms, and genres.

CTI 343 Love in the East and West 3 Hours

CTI 344 Epics and Heroes of India 3 Hours

Focus on India's classical epics, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, with emphasis placed on understanding the epic characters in relation to the heroic traditions of premodern India, as well as on the role of the epics in contemporary Indian political and religious culture.

CTI 344D Dante 3 Hours

CTI 344E War and Epic Literature 3 Hours

Examine the genre of epic literature through its evolving representation of war and conflict, with specific attention paid to political, social, historical, and artistic contexts, as well as to its historical reception in art, literature, film, and music.

CTI 344M Italian Masterpieces 3 Hours

Study of representative texts in visual arts, film, literature, and opera, from the Renaissance to the present, in their historical context.

CTI 345L Leadership: King Arthur to Queen Elizabeth 3 Hours

Explores major works of English literature, poetry, and drama from the 14th-16th century and European philosophy, with special attention to the universal question: what makes a good leader? Historical and current analysis of how authors model the duties of good citizens in idealized and critical depictions of fictional leaders—like King Arthur and his knights—and real leaders—like Richard II, Henry V, and Elizabeth I, as well as works written to advise rulers on good governance.

CTI 345M John Milton and the Enlightenment 3 Hours

Examine the impact of Milton's political and social writings by pairing Milton's political prose with eighteenth-century Enlightenment texts from both sides of the Atlantic. Discover the role Milton's ideas played in shaping the foundations of liberty in both Britain at the Glorious Revolution and in North America at the American Revolution.

CTI 346 The Major Works of Dostoevsky 3 Hours

Explores the dilemmas of homicide, suicide, patricide, and redemption in the novels of Fyodor Dostoevsky.

CTI 347 The Russian Novel 3 Hours

A survey of classic Russian authors as well as experimental works from the nineteenth through the twenty-first century.

CTI 348 War and Revolution in Russian Literature and Culture 3 Hours

Examines Russian narratives of war and revolution as represented in fiction, cinema, and journalism.

CTI 350 Masterworks of World Drama 3 Hours

Studies major tragedies, comedies, and historical plays from various epochs, including at least one of Shakespeare's plays. Explores themes related to ethics, politics, and human nature, as well as the craft of the playwright. Students attend and discuss at least one play performance.

CTI 351 The Idea of the Beautiful 3 Hours

Classical philosophical discussions of the idea of the beautiful (or noble or sublime), illustrated through selected works of art, drama, and literature. Explores the human perception of and response to beauty and its relation to such ideas as happiness and the promise of happiness, moral nobility or selflessness, and the divine. Philosophical works are studied in connection with examples drawn from the arts and are considered in their historical contexts.

CTI 352D Early Italian Renaissance Art to 1470 3 Hours

Traces the beginnings of the "rebirth" (renaissance) of the visual arts, from the end of the Middle Ages to the heyday of the Medici. Works of art are analyzed both in formal terms and in relation to contemporary society, religion, philosophy, economics, statecraft, gender, and other significant issues.

CTI 354 Abraham and Abrahamic Religions 3 Hours

Examines the figure of Abraham as portrayed in the Bible and the reception of that portrayal in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

CTI 354F The Five Books of Moses 3 Hours

Study the socio-historical circumstances that gave shape to the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Examine how these five books achieved the status of sacred literature.

CTI 354J The Book of Job 3 Hours

CTI 354L Law and Justice in the Bible 3 Hours

Examine the legal traditions of the Torah (Pentateuch) and what they reveal about the practice of law and justice in ancient Israel and the wider biblical world.

CTI 354P Biblical Prophecy 3 Hours

An introduction to the diversity of prophetic literature in the Old Testament, its historical development, social context, and Near Eastern parallels.

CTI 355 The Bible in the Colonial Americas 3 Hours

Varied perspectives on the central role played by the Old Testament in the construction of colonial cultures in the Americas.

CTI 355C Law, Liberty, and Faith 3 Hours

Consider medieval ideas about the proper relation between law, liberty, and faith, and the arguments against them made by modern philosophers and theologians.

CTI 355R The Age of Reformation 3 Hours

Examines late medieval religion, the rise of Protestant movements, and the Catholic response in their cultural, political, and social contexts.

CTI 355S Origin of the Idea of Religious Liberty 3 Hours

Explore the origin of the idea of religious liberty in the history of political philosophy, focusing on its early modern development in core texts.

CTI 355T Debating the Bible in the Twenty-First Century 3 Hours

Examine the ways in which individuals, primarily in the United States, have regarded the Bible as relevant or irrelevant to contemporary life. Discuss contemporary controversial issues in which the Bible has played a role and how these relate to earlier controversies, such as the position of the Bible on slavery.

CTI 357 Islamic Theology 3 Hours

CTI 363 The French Revolution and Napoleon 3 Hours

Analysis of the social, political, and economic origins and outcomes of the French Revolution and Napoleon's empire.

CTI 365 Classics of Social Scientific Thought 3 Hours

Studies a selection of foundational modern classics in economics, psychology, sociology, political science, and anthropology, drawn mainly from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

CTI 371 Einstein in the Age of Conflict 3 Hours

Following the life and work of Albert Einstein, course examines the rise of the theories of relativity and quantum mechanics upon the stage of international political upheaval.

CTI 371D Darwin on Origin of Species 3 Hours

Explore Darwin's argument for evolution in its original context.

CTI 371M History of Mathematics 3 Hours

Survey major mathematical developments beginning with the ancient Greeks and tracing those developments through Hindu-Indian mathematics, Arabic mathematics, and European mathematics up to the nineteenth century.

CTI 371N Newton's Principia 3 Hours

Examine key sections of Newton's Principia Mathematica Philosophiae Naturalis.

CTI 371S Science and Religion to Newton 3 Hours

Explore the complex relationship between science and religious faith in medieval and early modern Europe beginning with Galileo Galilei's trial before the Roman Inquisition. Examine themes including the understanding of God and nature, authority (classical and scriptural) versus observation, the wide range of knowledge-making practices, the persistence of magic, and the influence of power and patronage.

CTI 371T Science and Religion from Newton to the Present 3 Hours

Explore historical views regarding the relationship between science and religion since the time of Isaac Newton. Analyze controversies about mechanical philosophy, natural theology, evolution, the Big Bang, free will, selfish genes, and miracles through primary source readings. Explore the societal impacts of these controversies.

CTI 372 Darwin and the Politics of Evolution 3 Hours

A careful reading of Darwin's influential Origin of the Species by Means of Natural Selection, together with an examination of the religious, political, and scientific controversies the book has inspired from its first publication to the present day.

CTI 372M Great Works in Biology 3 Hours

Explore the history of biology through a close study of several major texts. Analyze controversies about authority, classification, extinction, evolution, and genetics. Emphasize primary source readings from influential figures who addressed these and other relevant questions.

CTI 373 Great Works In Medicine 3 Hours

Examine signature works in the history of medicine.

CTI 374 Biology, Behavior, and Injustice 3 Hours

Explores questions about human behavior related to biological factors as compared with personal experiences and societal standards.

CTI 375 Topics in Core Texts and Ideas 3 Hours

Study of classic texts, connected historically or thematically.

CTI 375.1 The Qur'an 3 Hours

Explore the history, language, style, and themes of the Qur'an.

CTI 375.4 Art and the City in Renaissance Italy 3 Hours

Art, architecture, and emerging civic identity in Florence, Siena, Venice, and other Italian Renaissance city-states.

CTI 375.5 Science and Religion: Newton-Present 3 Hours

Examine classic texts, connected historically or thematically.

CTI 375.7 Archaic and Classical Greece 3 Hours

Survey of Greek history from the emergence of the city-states to the rise of Macedonia.

CTI 375.8 Values and Leadership in Ancient World 3 Hours

CTI 379 Conference Course 3 Hours

Intensive tutorial study of selected major texts.