

Philosophy 332.01

Teaching Philosophy

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Philosophy professors face unique challenges in the classroom, where the goal is to teach students *how* to think rather than *what* to think. In this graduate class for future philosophy professors, we will explore and learn how to teach philosophy. We will cover such topics as:

- Creation of syllabi with appropriate scope, content, and difficulty
- How to communicate complicated philosophical concepts and ideas to undergraduate students
- How to encourage students to build their own philosophical positions, rather than parroting the ideas of others
- How to get students to “do” philosophy rather than merely study it
- How to encourage students to speak up in class
- How to build trust and rapport with one’s students
- How to earn and keep students’ attention in class
- How to introduce and discuss controversial philosophical topics (e.g. abortion, euthanasia, existence of God) and have productive class discussions about them
- How to create a non-discriminatory learning environment encouraging to women and minorities
- How to handle problem students and students with behavioral problems
- How to balance teaching and research

Course Requirements:

- One teaching presentation
- Participation in class discussion

This course will meet every other week over the spring and fall semesters. Graduate students will begin the course in spring of their third year before they have begun teaching, and continue the course into fall of their fourth year when teaching has begun.

This course counts towards the Duke Certificate in College Teaching.