Overview of class
From its origin in the ancient world, the skeptical tradition has represented a radically different way of engaging in philosophy. In this course, we will trace its development, both as a type of argument and as a way of life, from ancient Greece through the Early Modern period, when it was transformed in light of scientific and religious controversies. Our focus will be directed primarily at the work of Sextus Empiricus, Cicero, Montaigne, Charron, Bayle, Descartes, and Hume.

Learning Objectives
Students will learn about the distinctive nature of skepticism, its role in shaping the philosophical tradition, and its implications for how we continue to think about knowledge, justification, evidence, reasons, and, more broadly, an ethical life.

Graduate Students Only