



Plato Course Objectives

Philosophy | 5 credits

Open to all ninth through twelfth grade students, this eight-week summer course provides a deep and focused exploration into the work of one of the most important authors of the Western canon of great philosophy and literature. The purpose of this class is to introduce students to Plato, the founder of Western philosophy, to deepen students' understanding of ideas such as justice, beauty, virtue, and wisdom, and to hone student's skills in rhetoric and dialectic. The reading list consists of four Platonic dialogues. Students will focus on the philosophical themes highlighted in each text, as well as examine the characters of each drama. Students will explore the nature of dialogue as a literary genre, and will practice critical thinking and rhetorical skills through discussion. This course fulfills five credits of high school philosophy and complements the humanities studies in our other Emmaus Classical Academy classes.

Students who participate in Plato have the following objectives:

- Students will develop an understanding of Platonic dialogue. They will be able to
 - identify the organizing elements of a Platonic dialogue
 - identify, explicate, and respond to key themes and questions in Platonic dialogue
 - cross-analyze key Platonic themes in other ECA texts
- Students will develop rhetorical and dialectical skills. They will be able to
 - practice careful dialectic on a variety of subjects
 - write a Socratic dialogue of their own examining a key philosophical question
 - identify and implement various methods of Socratic elocution and rhetoric

Course objectives will be realized through intensive reading, writing, discussion, and dialogic construction. The discussion and writing assignments (in the form of Quick Take Questions) will serve as the evaluative tools to assess the students' progress toward the course objectives. A student portfolio will serve as a catalog of the student's progress through the course of the academic year, and the creative Socratic dialogue project is equivalent to a final exam.