PHILOSOPHY

It is the purpose of the courses in philosophy to introduce the student, by means of class reading and discussion, to the world of thought, the problems, and the styles of great philosophers. Although there is an attempt to follow the historical development, it is not the main purpose to acquaint the student with historical facts and details, but rather to awaken his mind to the perennial themes of philosophy. The courses seek to show how the hierarchy of values in life today, usually taken as self-evident, is in fact conditioned by philosophical interpretations of the past, and how the problems of philosophy are, therefore, of immediate concern to every individual and community.

Reading of Philosophical Classics (3 quarters)
Philosophy of Science (3 quarters)

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE

In literature classes the aim is to give the student an intimate experience and a thorough understanding of the major works in the English and American traditions.

Since literature by its nature stands midway between the arts and the social studies, the approach is both æsthetic and sociological or historical. In studying poetry as an art, form in the novel, or types of literature, techniques are analyzed, appreciation and development of taste are emphasized through informal oral readings and student writers are encouraged to practice in various forms.

In the survey courses the aim is to trace the development of a culture through its literature, as well as to point out the merits of individual works. Because it is essentially a personal expression of life by many writers, literature is of unusual value in contributing a knowledge of man's nature and experience, and thus leading the student toward a mature and broad comprehension of himself and his fellows. The peculiar qualities of the major types, such as tragedy, comedy and poetry, are examined with a view to understanding their origins in human experience and human values. The emphasis rests not on establishing facts of "sources" and "borrowings" — though these techniques of scholarship are taught and used — but on perceiving the specific quality of the work and its relation to life.

Introductory Courses:

Readings in Literature. A study of types of literature and the methods of literary analysis (3 quarters)