



Education is not the filling of a vessel, but the lighting of a fire.
—Plutarch

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

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ELIZABETH CANTALAMESSA

In our increasingly technologically dependent society, people seem to be more polarized than ever. One cause may be a common human trait: our tendency to be overconfident in what we think is right. As philosopher Richard Rorty once said, “Recognizing the contingency of one’s own sense of what matters most to one is a good way to avoid dogmatism.” What methods can we use to locate and combat dogmatic thinking? What does it mean to say that we have a “right to believe”? How has social media distorted our practices of trust and information exchange? In this course we’ll explore whether philosophy can help us develop the resources to effectively engage with others with whom we may not agree.