How can one learn the truth by thinking?
As one learns to see a face better if one draws it.

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy: Truth by Thinking

Harvey Hix

MWF 11 – 11:50
CB 137

In one of his notebooks, the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein wrote, "How can one learn the truth by thinking? As one learns to see a face better if one draws it." Without assuming Wittgenstein's *answer* is right, in this course we will ask ourselves his *question*. We will identify and practice some philosophical methodologies (dialogue, induction, deduction...), open an acquaintance with the philosophical tradition (Plato, Aristotle, Descartes...), and ask how philosophy might relate to other "ways of knowing" (science, religion, "big data"...). Our primary aim will be to enrich our capacity for self-determination, by enlarging the portion of our understanding (of self and world) that is deliberately chosen rather than unwittingly accepted.