

CHID
205 A

The background of the page is a reproduction of Raphael's fresco 'The School of Athens'. It depicts a group of ancient Greek philosophers in a grand, classical building with arches and columns. The figures are engaged in various activities of study and debate, such as pointing, gesturing, and reading. The central figures are Plato and Aristotle, standing together in the middle ground. The overall scene is one of intellectual pursuit and inquiry.

Method, Imagination and Inquiry

Raphael, *The School of Athens* 1509-1510

Method, Imagination and Inquiry is the longest continuously offered course in the CHID curriculum, first designed (and still taught) by Professor Leroy Searle under funding from the original NEH grant that created the CHID program. It was one of three “core” courses from the outset, with the purpose of providing a challenging introduction to intellectual history that spans the humanities and sciences, with a focus on the conceptual grounding of Western traditions of inquiry. The course has been taught yearly for 30 years, to more than 2500 students—in a number of cases to several generations in the same family. The vitality and durability of the course arises from a simple principle of design: every text, and every problem presented is carried forward to work by subsequent authors. The readings cover, sequentially, Plato, Aristotle, Giordano Bruno, Francis Bacon, Shakespeare, Descartes, Hume, Immanuel Kant, Coleridge, Emerson, Charles Sanders Peirce, James Clerk Maxwell, Thomas Kuhn, and William Faulkner.

M-F 12:30-1:20 | VLPA | CHID Gateway | Offered Jointly with ENGL 205A | WINT15