Foundation: Philosophy and Literature

Literary and philosophical works represent an ongoing conversation about the fundamental ideas and values that shape cultures and civilization. To participate fully in this conversation requires knowledge both of those works that are recognized as defining the history of the conversation, and of works that offer original or critical additions to it in the present. Through the study of great works of Philosophy and Literature, students will come to understand more clearly their own response to the world and to the ideas that give it form and comprehensibility.

Courses in this category will introduce students to the interpretation of a significant body of literary or philosophical work, and assist them in the careful reading, discussion, and analysis of primary texts.

Content Student Learning Outcomes
All courses in the Philosophy and Literature category include the following content:
1. The introduction of philosophy or literature as a "way of knowing:" an examination of principles and questions that define the field and its contributions to human knowledge and civilization.
2. A consideration of the relationship between the works discussed, the cultures in which they were created, and the human concerns they illuminate.
3. The critical analysis and interpretation of one or more primary texts as a major portion of course content.

Skills Student Learning Outcome 1 (choose one of the following):
   a) Written communication — the practice of creating and refining messages that educated readers will value; or
   b) Information literacy — the iterative process of identifying, accessing, evaluating, and synthesizing multiple forms of information.

Skills Student Learning Outcome 2 (choose one of the following):
   a) Oral communication — the practice of effectively communicating verbally with a public audience across a variety of contexts; or
   b) Ethical reasoning — a decision making process based on defining systems of value.