A Short Introduction to the History of Philosophy

What is the good? And how ought we to live? What is a just human society? What is there really in the world? And what can we know about the world? What can we know with certainty? Is there anything beyond our world? Are human beings free or are all our actions determined by the laws of nature? What is beauty? And what is its value for us? These fundamental philosophical questions and many others have been perplexing humanity for millennia. In this course we will present very succinctly the core thoughts of some of the great philosophers of the west. Each meeting will be devoted to a different philosopher or two and will be taught by a different teacher from the philosophy department who specializes in the thought of the philosopher. The aim of the course is to offer a first introduction to the philosophical legacy of the west and to extend an invitation to closer study of the field and to further acquaintance with the philosophy department. We will discuss the following philosophers (among others): Socrates and Plato; Aristotle; Aquinas; Descartes; Spinoza; Berkeley; Hume; Kant; Hegel; Mill; Marx; Nietzsche; Frege; Russell; Wittgenstein; Heidegger.