2,500 Years of Philosophy: 15 Weeks of Reading Instruction
in a Philosophy Learning Community
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The goal of our Philosophy Learning Community is to incorporate as many high impact practices (as defined by the AAC&U’s LEAP Initiative) in the classroom and beyond as possible to enhance student success. The main learning outcome of the learning community is the Essential Learning Outcome defined by the AAC&U: critical and creative thinking. To achieve this learning outcome, our new focus is on contextualized and meaningful reading instruction.

Our First Year Learning Community
Dyad P consists of a 50-seat Philosophy lecture and First-Year Seminar (25 students/section). Dyad P students include students from all majors.

AAC&U’s LEAP Initiative: High Impact Practices
The embedded value of the high impact practices in our learning community allows us the opportunity to teach students necessary college skills, such as reading, through contextualization of philosophy content.
• First-Year Seminars and Experiences
• Learning Communities

AAC&U’s LEAP Initiative: Essential Learning Outcomes
• Critical and creative thinking

AAC&U’s LEAP Initiative: Assessment
• Reading VALUE rubric

Our Approach – Path to Critical Reading
Contextualize reading instruction through Philosophy course readings.
Apply content knowledge from the readings to demonstrate understanding.

Conclusion
Critical thinking is one of the most complex and difficult SLOs to achieve of the Essential Learning Outcomes from the AAC&U. Research indicates students struggle to become proficient in critical thought. We believe that helping our students becoming critical readers, we will help them to become more critical and creative thinkers.