Baylor in Greece & Turkey  
Summer I, 2024  
Courses Available

Social World I: The City and the Soul (BIC 2330)  
Have you ever wondered why different people have such  
different ideas about morality, justice, and happiness? Or why  
there is such deep division on what kind of political leaders we  
should elect? These disagreements are nothing new. We find  
them in the Agora in 5th-century Greece BC, during the reign  
of Alexander the Great, and in 19th-century Europe. This  
course explores some of the most influential conceptions of  
morality, justice, happiness, and political order in Western  
history from Socrates to Nietzsche. The storied history of  
successive empires, monarchies, tyrannies, and republics will  
foreground our conversation about and reflection upon the  
texts used in the course.

Biblical Heritage and Contemporary Issues (BIC 3358)  
In this introduction to selected texts from the Old and New  
Testaments and to early Christian literature and thought, we  
will engage contemporary ethical and political issues.  
Biblical perspectives on such issues as human rights,  
environmental concerns, and the relation of church and state  
will be examined to provide a bridge between the  
didactic literary/cultural settings of the Bible and contemporary  
human experience. We will visit important archaeological  
sites and some of the most revered locations in the early  
history of the Christian Church, including Corinth, Ephesus,  
Pergamum, Izmir (Smyrna), Laodicea, Athens, and more.

Contemporary Moral Problems (PHI 1308)  
This course will use Classical Greek texts to explore  
contemporary moral and social problems. Should the  
government censor media? Would communism be the best  
economic system? Should the best, most qualified individuals  
rule instead of elected officials? Would the world be better if  
we eradicated traditional gender norms? How important is  
friendship to our personal and communal health? These are  
some of the questions we will explore using Plato and  
Aristotle as our guides.

Classical Philosophy (PHI 3310)  
While walking in the steps of the great Greek philosophers, we  
will ask their questions in search of true wisdom. We will  
visit the birthplace of philosophy at Miletus, Turkey. We will  
talk about Socrates in the Athenian market where he met  
friends to discuss virtue. We will marvel at ancient Delphi  
where Socrates’ friend Chaerephon heard the oracle profess  
that no one was wiser than Socrates. We will enjoy inquiring  
about virtue with Plato in some of his dramatically charged,  
philosophically rich dialogues. We will see the site of the  
Lyceum established by Aristotle where his brilliant  
“peripatetic” lectures were first heard and discussed by  
students. Aristotle said that “philosophy begins in wonder,”  
and our trip will offer ample confirmation of his dictum.

Intellectual Tradition of the Ancient World (GTX 2301)  
We will read, study, and discuss many of the great texts of the  
ancient world in the settings in which they were written. The  
Trojan War will come alive as we visit the archeological site  
of ancient Troy. We will see the sites of New Testament  
churches at Pergamum, Corinth, Ephesus, Laodicea, and more.  
We will climb “Mars Hill” where St. Paul first preached to the  
Athenians and journey to historic Delphi where the great  
oracle presided in mystery, passing Thebes and Mt. Parnassus  
on the way. This is the ideal setting to read ancient great texts.

Pilgrimage and Martyrdom (BIC 4389 / REL 4300 /  
GTX 4V99)  
This course explores the concepts of pilgrimage and  
martyrdom. Medieval pilgrimages by Christians were a  
significant spiritual discipline. “Pilgrimage is a journey to  
sacred places. Every place has a story, and sacred places are  
those places whose story is associated with God’s self-  
revelation and with the lives of the holy” (New Westminster  
Dictionary of Spirituality). These pilgrimages had as their goal  
to visit the places of martyrdom and martyr relics. Thus, we  
will examine how the stories of martyrs shape our own  
understanding of the life that is worth living. We will also  
examine how the metaphor of pilgrimage helps us examine the  
lives we have lived and the ones we hope to live.

Paul and His Writings (REL 3314)  
The course looks at one of the most pivotal figures or the early  
Christian movement, the Apostle Paul, and the letters he sent  
to the early churches. We will consider key elements of Paul’s  
gospel, how he addressed his gospel to the issue that arose in  
his churches, and what legacy Paul left. We will do this all in  
the context of Greece and Turkey visiting sites where Paul  
planted churches and learning about the context in which  
Paul’s ministry took place.